

DIRECT ACTION

WEB
FEATURE

A special feature from DirectAction.org

from the DA Archives

GroundWork 07: Grassroots Overview

GroundWork was a successor to Direct Action newspaper – for which the novel *Direct Action* was named. In 1989, several former DA collective members joined a San Francisco-based collective publishing Green Letter magazine, loosely affiliated with the pre-Green Party grassroots Greens' movement.

In 1992, as the Greens morphed into an electoral party, we renamed the magazine GroundWork and became an independent grassroots voice. Circulation peaked at 8000 copies, with subscribers in almost every US state and Canadian province as well as across Europe.

Each issue offered general grassroots reporting as well as in-depth coverage of a particular theme. The issues on Nuclear Waste were the most comprehensive report available on this secretive and ever-shifting topic in the 1990s.

- GroundWork Issue 1 (1992) - 500 Years of Resistance
- GroundWork Issue 2 (1992) - Health and Organizing
- GroundWork Issue 3 (1993) - Nuclear Waste - Part I
- GroundWork Issue 4 (1994) - Nuclear Waste - Part II
- GroundWork Issue 5 (1995) - Grassroots Dialog
- GroundWork Issue 6 (1996) - Defending Our Forests
- GroundWork Issue 7 (1998) - Grassroots Overview

Download all seven issues at: DirectAction.org/groundwork/

Photo: 2011 Foreclose the Banks protest in downtown San Francisco, by Luke Hauser.



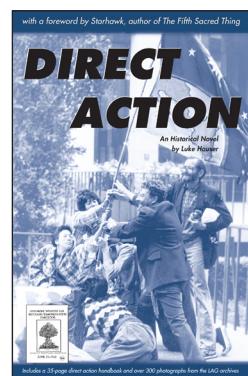
DIRECT ACTION

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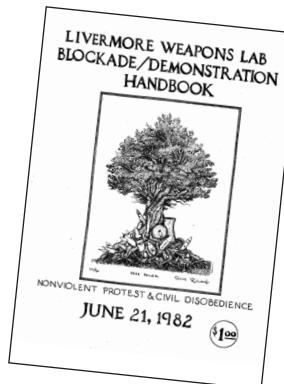


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photos and news — direct from the grassroots



Issue 10

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Nuclear Waste

and the grassroots

Defending
Our Forests

NATIVE
AMERICAN NEWS

Environmental
Justice

Social
Organizing

Ground Work

Ground Work

GroundWork is a national photo-newsmagazine covering community organizing, direct action, and other grassroots work. Our fiscal sponsor is the Tides Foundation.

We feature regular coverage of many grassroots networks, and issues, including women's organizing, Native American news, anti-nuclear organizing, gay, lesbian and bisexual issues, Food Not Bombs, art & resistance, Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice, war tax resisters, ACT UP, bioregionalists, and more.

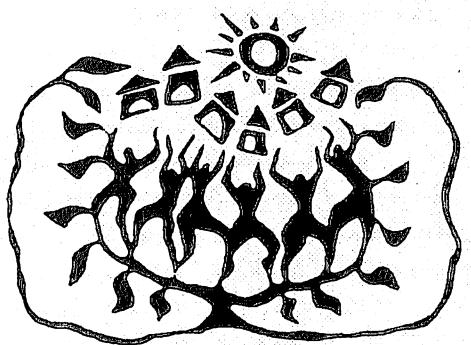
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The GroundWork Collective: Margo Adair, George Franklin, Tori Woodard, & Steve Nadel

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Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of GroundWork.

Cover Photo: Ecotopia News Service



Ruth Richards

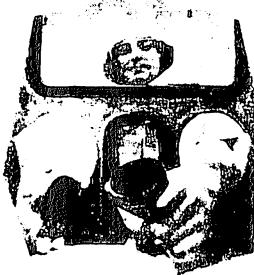
Subscriptions & address changes: GroundWork Subscriptions, P.O. Box 14141, San Francisco, CA 94114.

Beginning in Summer 1998, GroundWork will go on-line, featuring current updates, announcements, and late-breaking news from the grassroots. More than ever, we will rely on readers to keep us up to date on activities in your areas. Check out our web site at:

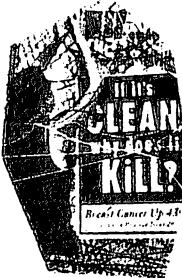
www.groundworkmag.org

Nuclear Waste: State of Emergency

a GroundWork theme section,
coordinated by Tori Woodard



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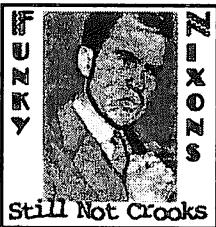
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Submitting Articles, Graphics & Photos to GroundWork

GroundWork welcomes reports from readers. You are our connection to the grassroots in your area. We are particularly interested in accounts of events and actions, and appreciate analytical articles which are tied to specific organizing. We will consider press releases or original accounts of events.

Groups — Put us on your mailing list. We look through the dozens of publications we receive, to get ideas for stories. Also, consider getting bulk bundles of GroundWork to resell as a fundraiser for your group — see back inside cover.

Photographers — Photos are essential to our vision of GroundWork. We want photos of events, actions, art projects, community organizing and service, and alternative culture. We can return photos after using them, and will consider paying for processing, printing and mailing — please contact us first, at (415) 255-7623.

Artists — We appreciate receiving graphic work. Please do not send original artwork. High-quality xeroxes or stats are great; if you have your work scanned into a Mac format that can be read by Aldus Pagemaker, that works well too. But we are glad to accept xeroxed work.

Readers — Keep us in touch with your area. Show GroundWork to people you know. Ask groups to send us their newsletters. And when you are involved in a project, send us a photo and a short account.

If you can distribute sample copies at a conference, or to groups and bookstores in your area, let us know — call (415) 255-7623.

And please — Support us financially! We depend on your donations to publish GroundWork.

*See back cover for
subscription information.*

TO OUR READERS...

Welcome to *GroundWork* #7 — our first full issue in two years.

It has been a long haul, and we deeply appreciate the loyalty of our subscribers as well as the writers and photographers who have patiently waited to see their work in print.

In this issue, we re-visit the pressing issue of nuclear waste. Tori Woodard, whose reporting anchored *GroundWork* #3 and #4, again surveys the nationwide situation — see page 3 for a full introduction. Activism around nuclear waste is happening across the country, but there is no single network or organization which encompasses the range of organizing. As Tori notes in her introduction, there is a pressing need for us to work together, to frame our local struggles in a national and international context. We hope that our 15-page theme section will help draw people together.

GroundWork #6 featured a theme section on forest activism. In this issue, we devote six pages to updating some of those campaigns — Cove/Mallard, Headwaters, and the growing menace of chip mills in the south and midwest. In this arena, there are several strong coalitions — Earth First!, the Dogwood Alliance, and Native Forest Network have all contributed to our reporting, and we are glad to support their work.

Our National News section covers two issues which we have not previously devoted major coverage to — activism by people living with disabilities (and their dedicated attendants); and prisoner-support organizing. We also carry a report on a new activist organization, Greenaction, whose Executive Director, former Greenpeace staffer Bradley Angel, has been a steady supporter of *GroundWork* as well as a front-line organizer at Ward Valley, with dioxin campaigns, and elsewhere. See page 34 for details on this important new group.

NEW VISTAS — ON TO THE INTERNET....

Having produced this issue, the *GroundWork* collective now turns to a vision we have been outlining for a couple of years,

but only now have the resources and funding to pursue: setting up an internet web site which will carry up-to-date reports on the full range of grassroots activism and issues that this magazine has been dedicated to covering. While we are concerned about accessibility issues for those of you who do not have internet access, we are intrigued by the possibilities of "instant publishing" of reports, updates, and announcements. Look to this site — which we hope to have online by the summer — for information on the "state of the grassroots."

So look for us this summer at: www.groundworkmag.org

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Which of course brings us to our favorite topic — how you can help!

More than ever, we are going to rely on you, our readers, to keep us up to date on what is happening in your geographic and issue-areas.

- When you schedule an event, we need for you to let us know as soon as possible, so we can alert the rest of our readers.
- When we see an item in your newsletter, we will need your assistance in getting a "digital" version that we can add to our site.
- We want you to add a link to your web site which directs readers to *GroundWork*'s site for a national perspective on your issues — we'll do the same for you, helping create a network of cross-references that will connect local organizing to our national and international overview. Contact us for help in setting up the links!
- And lastly, we continue to rely on your generous financial support of our work. *GroundWork* is supported entirely by contributions. We carry no paid advertising. Please subscribe or renew today and help us continue to be the voice of the grassroots.

With a web site augmenting our printed work, *GroundWork* will be in a position to bolster your local work, and to build key connections among grassroots groups.

But it is your support that will make this possible!

Again, thank you for your loyalty and patience. We are excited to bring you this "hard copy" magazine, and look forward to your continued support of our work. Together, we can build a grassroots movement to change the world.

www.groundworkmag.org

That's right — *GroundWork* is going online.

Starting in summer 1998, you'll be able to get not only the most recent issue, but updates, announcements, and stories that didn't fit into our print edition.

Plus — we'll provide links to dozens of other sites, becoming a hub for groups across the continent and around the world. Find kindred spirits, connect with groups doing similar work in other parts of the country, and find out what's going on at the grassroots — www.groundworkmag.org — see you there!

We want to hear from you — contact us now via phone, (415) 255-7623, or email, georgef@sirius.com — what do you want to see on our web site? We want to hear from you!

Nuclear Waste: State of Emergency

A GroundWork Theme Section

BY THE STAFF OF GROUNDWORK

In our six years of publishing, GroundWork has featured ongoing coverage of the national (and international) state of emergency concerning radioactive waste.

Nowhere is the problem more compelling than in the United States — home not only to nuclear energy and nuclear weapons complexes of our own, but the world's leading exporter of nuclear technology. For half a century, the United States has led the world in the nuclear dance. Now, the piper has to be paid.

In GroundWork #3 and #4, Tori Woodard, one of the handful of private citizens in the U.S. who grasps the enormity of the problem and sees the problem in its national scope, edited theme sections for GroundWork on nuclear waste. Her writing helped shape a nation-wide consciousness around the problem, and helped expose how the U.S. government and the nuclear industry were attempting to foist the world's nuclear waste on Native American reservations.

Thanks to the dedicated struggles of members of Indigenous tribes and their allies, every attempt to site a waste dump on Native American land has been defeated or stalled. This victory, largely ignored by the mainstream press, is cause for great hope as we face a show-down over what will be done with the radioactive waste.

Now, even as Native Americans and their allies confront an insidious state government in California and the increasingly desperate nuclear corporations around the fate of the Ward Valley desert (see page 18), GroundWork again surveys the dilemma of nuclear waste.

You can join in this work by getting involved in the campaign closest to your own home — and by working to see that links are made between activists across the country, until with one voice we can say — Stop Now! We will work together to block any nuclear waste dump as long as the industry and the government persist in producing this deadly material.



X is the symbol of the movement to stop shipments of spent nuclear fuel to Gorleben, Germany. See related photo, page 6. Photo courtesy of NIRS — see contacts, page 17.

BY TORI WOODARD

With the end of the Cold War, there has been a tendency to turn from issues of militarism and anti-nuclear organizing to more immediate concerns. Yet we are in as much danger of a meltdown at a nuclear reactor as we were in the 1970s when tens of thousands of people demonstrated to prevent plants from being built. We won a partial victory when the nuclear industry stopped trying to build new reactors in this country; with that victory many people turned to other matters. But cooling tubes in the steam generators of reactors around the country are cracking sooner and in different ways than expected, raising again the specter of a meltdown. Organizers focused on nuclear power plants are in a race to shut down the plants before a Chernobyl-sized meltdown occurs.

We are in as much danger of nuclear war as we were in the 1980s when hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated against nuclear weapons. The U.S. and Russia remain ready to fire thousands of nuclear weapons at each other half an hour or less after one of them spots an unexplained blip on a radar screen (see *Scientific American*, November 1997).

We won a partial victory when the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty was signed in 1996. Again, many people turned to other matters. But the treaty is being undermined by U.S. "subcritical" tests in Nevada and by U.S. plans to conduct mini nuclear tests under laboratory conditions (see "Laboratory-Scale Nuclear Explosions," p. 14). The U.S. and Russia have started to disarm under the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaties, but Russia hesitates to sign START II with NATO expanding into former Warsaw Pact countries.

In the '90s we see anti-nuclear activists teamed up with local residents, often people of color, fighting government plans to contaminate new areas with nuclear waste. We're making progress, but we may also win only a partial victory.

Each of these movements — nuclear power, nuclear weapons, and nuclear waste — needs thousands more people. How are we going to get them? First, the people who were riled up about nuclear power and nuclear weapons in the '70s and '80s need to start organizing around these issues again. Second, we need to end the present division of anti-nuclear organizing into several separate compartments. Working closely together, appealing to the strongly anti-nuclear sentiments of most of the public, we could build a single, united mass movement capable of putting a stop to the Nuclear Age in all its aspects.



DOE's Plans for Plutonium and Transuranic Waste

By Tori Woodard

INTRODUCTION

Transuranic waste contains man-made elements that are higher in the periodic table than uranium. The vast majority of transuranic waste is plutonium, created by the Department of Energy's (DOE) nuclear weapons program.

DOE has at least 20,000 solid metal plutonium "pits" for nuclear bombs. (Shaped like a flying saucer, the pit can fit into the palm of a worker's hand.) DOE considers the pits a resource; anti-nuclear activists believe they should be considered waste and disposed of in a manner that prevents anyone from using them in a weapon.

In addition to plutonium metal, DOE has mountains of plutonium-contaminated waste. Much of it is in trenches, tanks, and cooling ponds at DOE facilities. A lot is in the heavily contaminated buildings and grounds at Rocky Flats, Colorado, where the pits were made. DOE hopes to transfer some of its plutonium-contaminated waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP) in New Mexico. Regulations allow small amounts of plutonium in low-level radioactive waste.

PROCESSING PLUTONIUM INTO MOX FUEL

In January, 1997, DOE decided to dispose of 50 metric tons of "excess" bomb-grade plutonium metal by processing 2/3 of it into fuel for commercial nuclear reactors and immobilizing the rest in a glass or ceramic matrix. To carry out this plan, DOE proposes to build a plutonium processing plant, a MOX (mixed oxide) fuel fabrication plant, and a plutonium immobilization plant. Five of the sites in the nuclear weapons complex are candidates for the plants, including the Pantex plant near Amarillo, Texas; the Savannah River Site in South Carolina; the Idaho National Engineering & Environmental Laboratory (INEEL); and/or the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in

Washington state.

The plutonium pit processing facility would convert solid metal plutonium pits into oxide powder. The MOX fuel fabrication plant would mix 3% plutonium oxide powder with 97% uranium oxide to create "mixed oxide" fuel. The immobilization plant would mix plutonium oxide powder into glass or ceramic to render it unusable. The glass or ceramic logs would then be disposed (who knows where).

DOE would like a consortium to run the MOX fuel plant. DOE has offered to build the plant, provide depleted uranium and plutonium oxide, transport the MOX fuel, and provide liability coverage.

Corporations who have expressed interest include British Nuclear Fuels Ltd (BNFL), COGEMA, Bechtel, General Electric, Westinghouse, and other giants.

These corporations do not make good neighbors. For instance, there is a higher than average incidence of childhood leukemia near the reprocessing plants run by BNFL in Sellafield, England, and by COGEMA in LaHague, France. And don't expect unbiased coverage of MOX in the U.S. media: General Electric owns NBC, and Westinghouse owns CBS.

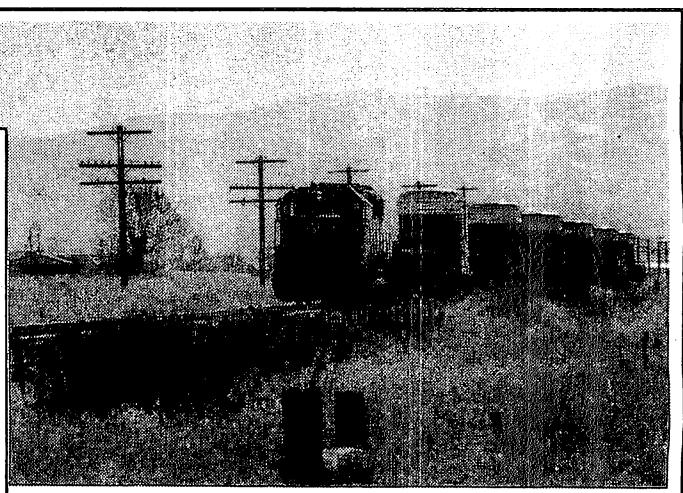
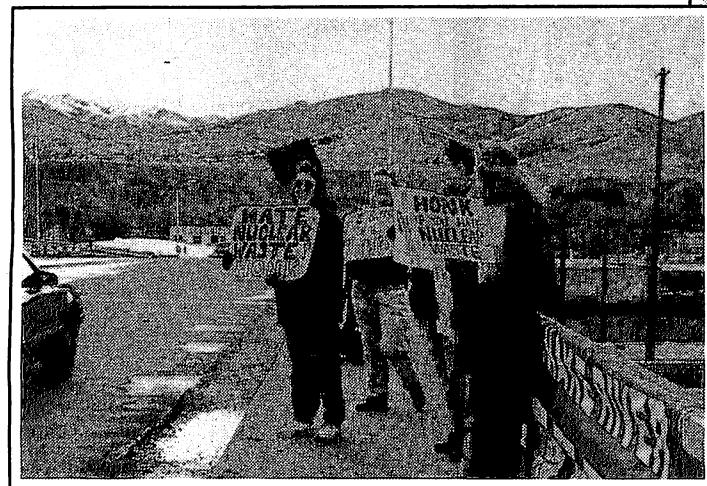
OPPOSITION TO PLUTONIUM PROCESSING

Anti-nuclear organizers around the country are mobilizing to stop MOX, which some call POX. Why oppose MOX?

1) Plutonium oxide powder is the form of plutonium most hazardous to human health. A speck of plutonium can cause lung cancer.

2) Processing plutonium will create major streams of transuranic and low level waste.

3) MOX would not dispose of plutonium. As much as 80% of the plutonium would still be suitable for use in



Honk if you hate nuclear waste — protesters from the Snake River Alliance protest rail transit of nuclear waste casks through Idaho, on their way to and from INEEL. Photos courtesy of Snake River Alliance.





Native Americans and anti-nuclear allies, March for Survival, Summer 1994 near Prairie Island, Minnesota. Photo by Rob Meyer/PICANS.

nuclear weapons after the fuel was burned in a reactor.

4) MOX fuel will be dangerous to use in most nuclear power plants, which were not designed for MOX. MOX fuel decreases the effectiveness of a reactor's control rod by about 30%, thereby reducing the window of time for an operator to respond in an emergency.

5) There is a surplus of enriched uranium to use as reactor fuel, so MOX fuel is not needed.

6) MOX fuel is much more expensive to use than conventional uranium fuel, requiring massive taxpayer subsidies to the nuclear power industry.

7) MOX fuel fabrication is new and unproven on a large scale.

For more information, contact Save Texas Agriculture and Resources for their flyer entitled "Mixed Oxide Fuel: Liability, Not Solution" (contacts on p. 17).

IMMOBILIZING PLUTONIUM IN GLASS

The Alliance for Nuclear Accountability, a coalition of grassroots groups that have focused on DOE's nuclear weapons complex, believes immobilizing excess plutonium in glass or ceramic is the least dangerous, most effective disposal option. (The Alliance was formerly called the Military Production Network.) For instance, the Rocky Mountain Peace & Justice Center supports building an immobilization pilot plant at the

plutonium-contaminated Rocky Flats, rather than shipping the plutonium to another site. Immobilized plutonium could not be readily extracted for use in nuclear weapons.

STORING TRANSURANIC WASTE IN SALT FORMATIONS AT WIPP

If DOE succeeds in opening WIPP in 1998, we will see an American version of the Gorleben protest (see box on p. 6). A multi-state network is gearing up for direct action to prevent DOE from burying transuranic waste 2,000 feet below the surface in salt formations at WIPP in southern New Mexico. The first of 29,000 truckloads of waste could roll as early as May 1998, at the end of an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) review process (see route map, page 7).

Shortly after receiving a letter from U.S. Senators that threatened to cut EPA's funding if they did not move forward with the WIPP application, EPA pronounced DOE's application for WIPP complete.

Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping (CARD) are sponsoring civil resistance workshops for the upcoming action. They have also submitted several technical papers concerning WIPP. One hydrology paper describes natural pipes in the land formations above WIPP, which could quickly transport radioactive

continued on next page

What is Radioactive Waste?

Government agencies in this country have divided radioactive waste into roughly five categories:

1. transuranic waste (waste containing elements with atomic numbers higher than uranium, mostly plutonium)
2. high level waste
 - a. "spent" nuclear fuel rods from nuclear reactors
 - b. waste from reprocessing spent nuclear fuel
3. uranium mill tailings
4. "low level" radioactive waste (mostly everything that doesn't fall into the above three categories)
5. mixed waste (waste that is both radioactive and chemically toxic).

What Should We Do With It?

1. Radioactive waste must be divided into more than five categories in order to be handled appropriately. For example, radioactive materials that are only harmful for a few hours to one year should be kept separate from waste that is harmful for 300 years to 250,000 years. Instead, under the current regulations, small amounts of long-lived waste can be mixed with short-lived waste in "low level" radioactive waste dumps.
2. Many activists will not agree with any plan to dispose of radioactive waste until government and industry resolve to stop making more of it. Until that happens, storing waste near where it is generated, and transporting the waste somewhere else, both allow the nuclear industry to keep generating more waste.
3. If the production of waste were to cease, most activists would support stabilizing it at or near where it was generated, and keeping it above-ground in monitored, retrievable storage so that future generations can make sure it does not enter the biosphere.



continued from preceding page

contaminants to the earth's surface.

Plutonium will remain a health hazard for 250,000 years. A far more sensible approach would be to keep it above-ground in monitored, retrievable storage so that people can make sure it doesn't get into the environment.

INCINERATING AND PACKAGING MIXED TRANSURANIC WASTES

In the largest privatization effort at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. (BNFL) was awarded a contract in December 1996 to retrieve, sort, "treat", and package mixed transuranic wastes. Mixed transuranic wastes are chemically toxic and also contain highly radioactive elements heavier than uranium, primarily plutonium.

About 1/4 of all of DOE's mixed waste has already accumulated at INEEL. More mixed waste will be brought to the new facility from twenty DOE and Navy sites. After "treatment", the Navy's waste will stay at INEEL.

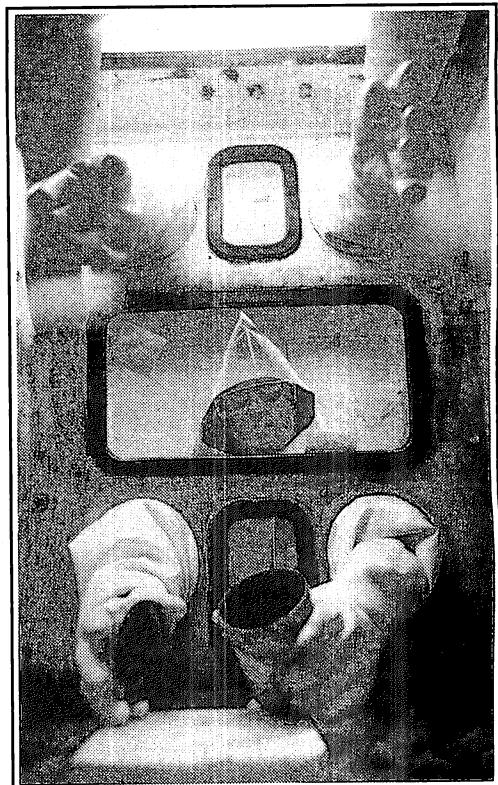
BNFL will sort the wastes by type. Some of them will be packaged for

disposal in a mixed "low level" radioactive waste facility, such as the one run by Envirocare in Utah (see "Mixed Waste Dump in Utah", p 11). The rest will be prepared for disposal at WIPP in New Mexico (see above). Under the current plan, the DOE wastes will be shipped to INEEL for "treatment", shipped back to their source (reduced in volume), then shipped again to WIPP.

Depending on the type of waste, "treatment" will mean incineration, supercompaction, or vitrification. Neither WIPP nor mixed "low level" radioactive waste facilities require the waste to be treated in these manners. Therefore it is unnecessary to risk people's health by incinerating the waste.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Make plans now to help block the shipments, or to support those who will be. Network with CARD (see "Contacts", p. 17), organize nonviolence trainings, form affinity groups, and decide if you want to block a shipment through your area or help with a larger action near WIPP.



What did you do at work today, mommy? Glovebox for handling plutonium. According to DOE, workers wear "anti-contamination clothing," complete with pointed white hood. Photo by DOE.



Thousands protest spent fuel shipments in Germany

20,000 nonviolent protesters assembled in March 1997 to prevent the shipment of six casks of spent nuclear fuel to a salt mine in Gorleben, Germany. They dug holes in the roads, made blockades out of tractors, logs and people, and held up the shipment for three days. Germany spent \$100 million deploying 30,000 police to remove them. At what price the Atomic State? See related photo on page 3. Photo courtesy of NIRS — see contacts, page 17.

Do not dig or drill here before A.D. 12,000...

DOE asked Sandia National Laboratories to figure out how to mark WIPP so that future generations won't be harmed by the waste. Here are some of their ideas (this is for real!):

- Build a massive field of thirty-foot-high thorns
- Build a huge grid with gigantic protruding spikes tearing through the earth below
- Post a marker that says:
 - "Do not dig or drill here before A.D. 12,000"
 - OR
 - "This marking system has been designed to last 10,000 years. If the marker is difficult to read, add new markers in longer-lasting materials in languages that you speak"
 - OR
 - "Nothing valued is here"
 - OR
 - "This place is not a place of honor."



Playing Musical Chairs with Spent Nuclear Fuel

By Tori Woodard

INTRODUCTION

Spent nuclear fuel is the highly-irradiated fuel rods from nuclear reactors. It will remain lethal for at least 10,000 years.

The sources of spent nuclear fuel in this country are reactors in the Department of Energy's (DOE) nuclear weapons complex, the Navy's nuclear power reactors, academic research reactors, and spent fuel imported from foreign reactors and domestic commercial nuclear power reactors.

DOE has jurisdiction over the first four of these sources. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has jurisdiction over spent nuclear fuel from domestic commercial nuclear power reactors.

This article will explore current plans to transport, store and dispose of spent nuclear fuel from these sources. We cannot support any of these plans until there is a commitment to stop making more nuclear waste; otherwise, providing disposal facilities merely allows the waste producers to generate more waste.

CONSOLIDATION OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL BY TYPE OF CLADDING

The DOE has decided to consolidate the spent nuclear fuel that it controls according to the type of metal in which the spent fuel is wrapped. That means a lot of deadly material will be riding the rails back and forth across this country. (See Map, page 8).

As part of DOE's plan, all aluminum-clad spent fuel will be shipped to the Savannah River Site in South Carolina. Non-aluminum-clad spent nuclear fuel will be shipped to the Idaho Nuclear Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL). Savannah River and INEEL will exchange any spent fuel in their inventories which is clad in the wrong wrapper. The spent fuel at DOE's Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington state will stay at Hanford.

1,133 casks of spent nuclear fuel are guaranteed to be sent to INEEL, including 580 from the Navy and 162 from foreign countries. 1,450 casks would go to Savannah River, including 675 from foreign reactors.

The State of South Carolina unsuccessfully sued DOE to try to halt the imports of foreign spent fuel.

Ultimately, DOE plans to ship the spent nuclear fuel at INEEL and Savannah River cross-country yet again, to a deep geologic repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

What do activists think about this?
Obviously it's insane to ship this deadly material around the country. Since

Savannah River has the capacity to reprocess aluminum-clad fuel, the fuel-shuffling plan suggests that DOE is considering starting up reprocessing again.

Reprocessing extracts plutonium from spent nuclear fuel. It's a bad idea for several reasons:

- Reprocessing creates a huge amount of high level waste
- Plutonium can be used to make bombs
- We don't need more plutonium; DOE has already declared 50 metric tons of plutonium to be excess.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN AS A DEEP GEOLOGIC REPOSITORY

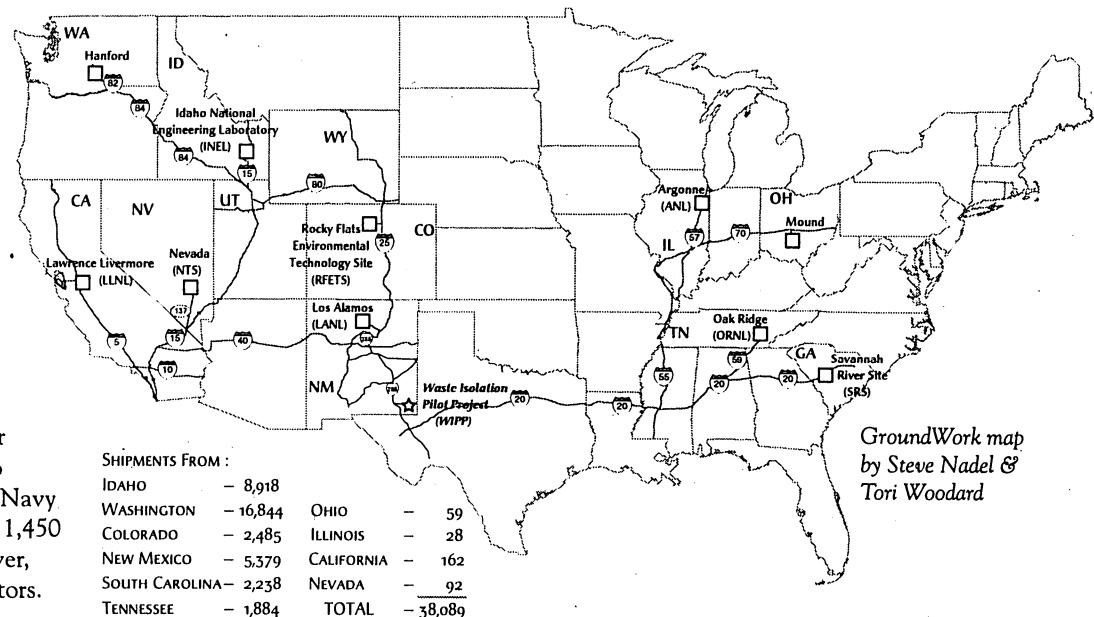
In 1987 Congress designated Yucca Mountain, Nevada, as the nation's first deep geologic repository for high level waste. Both military and commercial high level waste were supposed to be stored there by 1998.

There are several problems with this plan:

- 1) Groundwater and corrosive

continued on next page

TRUCK ROUTES FOR WASTE GOING TO WIPP



continued from preceding page

minerals inside Yucca Mountain, as well as earthquake and volcanism in the vicinity, make it very unlikely that Yucca Mountain will isolate the waste from the environment as planned.

2) Burying high level waste deep in the earth where it cannot be retrieved if something goes wrong is very unwise.

3) Shipping spent nuclear fuel casks to Nevada jeopardizes the health of everyone living along the many transportation routes (*see map below*).

4) The mountain is not big enough to hold all the waste that people want to put in it.

5) Hauling spent nuclear fuel to Yucca Mountain won't clean up the sites where the waste was generated; it will merely create yet another contaminated site. As Bonnie Brailsford of Snake River Alliance says, "There will be nuclear waste in Idaho until the end of time."

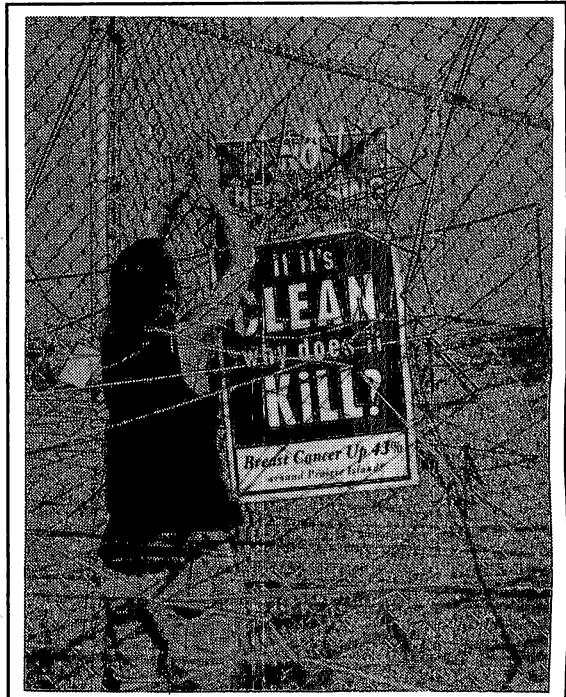
Thanks to grassroots groups publicizing the problems with Yucca Mountain, DOE drastically cut back funding for the project. And the National Academy of Science has okayed a re-evaluation of the U.S. commitment to deep geologic burial of nuclear waste. Partial funding for the study has been pledged by Germany. Undoubtedly

spending \$100 million to fight 20,000 protesters in order to bury six casks of spent fuel rods in a salt repository at Gorleben last year made Germany question the wisdom of deep geologic burial (*see side bar, page 6*).

YUCCA MOUNTAIN AS A PARKING LOT FOR NUCLEAR WASTE

But the nuclear industry doesn't give up easily. They pushed an even riskier proposal through Congress in fall 1997: ship the nation's spent nuclear fuel to the Nevada Test Site adjacent to Yucca Mountain and let it sit in a parking lot until Yucca Mountain opens, if it ever does.

SB 104 and HR 1270 exempt the interim storage facility at Yucca Mountain from all environmental laws. Both bills set radiation exposure levels at 100 millirems for the average person in the nearby area. (Average is defined as a strong young man; although effects of radiation would be higher on fetuses, the elderly, and people with health problems.) By



Why Does It Kill? Prairie Island, Minnesota protest, Summer 1994. Photo by Mark Fredrickson/PICANS.

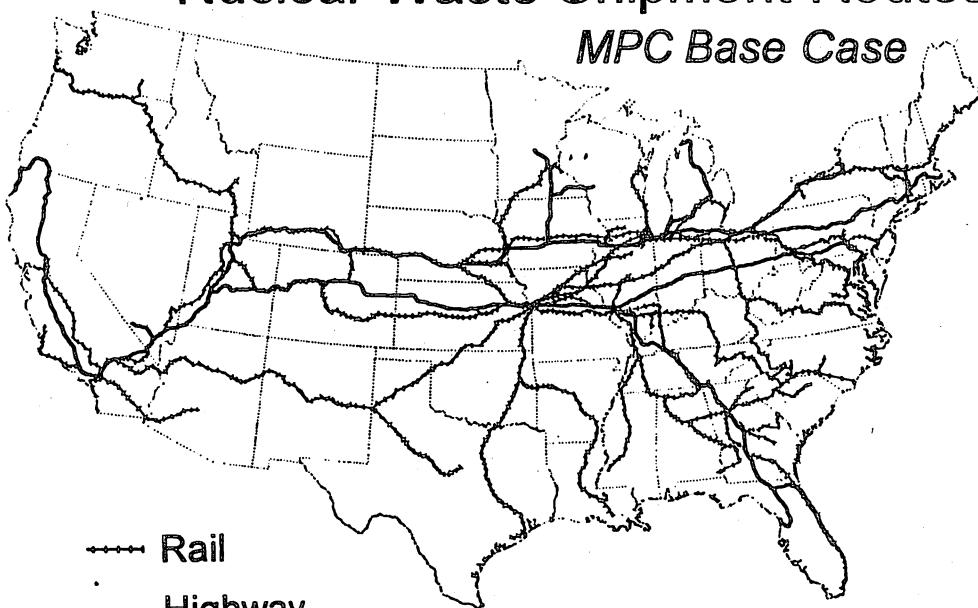
comparison, the Safe Drinking Water standard is four millirems. The standard at WIPP is 15 millirems (see "Storage in Salt Formations at WIPP", page 5). A dose of 100 millirems translates to a risk of one cancer death per 286 exposed individuals.

Acceptable Risk is usually defined as one death per one million individuals.

VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY PROGRAM FAILS

A few years ago, with the Yucca Mountain project already behind schedule, the federal government tried to bribe "volunteer" communities to store the waste until the permanent repository opened. A few counties and many Native American Tribes expressed an interest. However, the federal Office of the Nuclear Waste Negotiator was unable to sign a contract with any of them, and

Nuclear Waste Shipment Routes MPC Base Case



finally closed up shop.

The Mescalero Apache Indian Tribe then began negotiating with Northern States Power to host a private Monitored Retrievable Storage facility. The negotiations didn't get anywhere. At that point Northern States Power turned to the Skull Valley Band of Goshutes in Utah.

SKULL VALLEY INDIAN RESERVATION: FIGHTING THE TRIBAL COUNCIL

In December 1996 the Goshute Tribal Council signed a contract with nuclear power utilities to form the Private Fuel Storage Limited Liability Corporation. Private Fuel Storage has applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for a license to store spent nuclear fuel on Goshute tribal land 80 miles west of Salt Lake City, Utah. The NRC licensing process could take up to two years.

The project is opposed by the State of Utah and by a new grassroots Goshute organization, Ohngo Gaudadeh Devia (which means Timber Setting Community). The group held a spiritual walk from Skull Valley to Salt Lake City to show their opposition to the project. Then they sponsored a public forum in Salt Lake City in August 1997. They are encouraging the State to provide the housing and education that Private Fuel Storage promised to the tribe. There is no employment on the reservation, which is already impacted by nearby nerve gas and toxic waste incinerators.

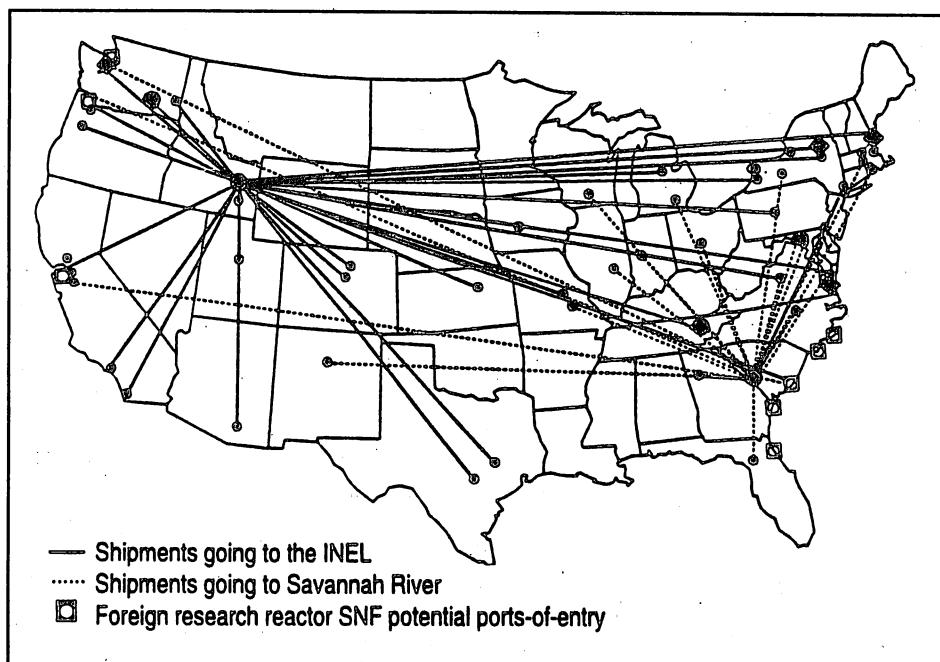
How you can help: Send office equipment/supplies and money to Ohngo Gaudadeh Devia (see "Contacts", p. 17).

Force your own local nuclear utility companies out of the project. (Boston Edison withdrew from the project rather than tell Citizens Awareness Network how the project would be funded.) The following utilities are still involved:

- Northern States Power
- Illinois Power
- Indiana-Michigan Power
- Southern Nuclear Operating Co.
- Consolidated Edison of New York
- GPU Nuclear Corp.

PRairie ISLAND INDIAN RESERVATION: LAND ANNEXED

Northern States Power (NSP) runs a



nuclear power plant on Prairie Island in the Mississippi River, on land annexed from the Prairie Island Indian Reservation.

In 1994 the Minnesota legislature allowed NSP to store up to 17 dry casks of spent nuclear fuel on-site, if NSP would generate a certain amount of power using wind and biomass by certain target dates and submit a detailed plan to phase out nuclear power.

In the less than four years since the bill passed, enough renewable energy sources have come on line, or have been committed to do so, to replace 1/2 of the nuclear electricity generated on Prairie Island. Now that's progress!

However, NSP is not committed to phasing out nuclear power. The "detailed" phase-out plan that they submitted merely explained why nuclear power should not be phased out.

The Prairie Island plant will have to shut down if NSP can't find a place to put its waste. They have a three-pronged approach:

- 1) Try to remove the limit on the number of casks they can store on Prairie Island.
- 2) Push federal legislation to create a parking lot for spent nuclear fuel next to Yucca Mountain.
- 3) Build a private nuclear spent fuel storage facility, perhaps on the Skull Valley Indian Reservation.

WIND RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION: THREATENED BY CORPORATION

40,000 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel are proposed to be stored on private land in Riverton, Wyoming. The Riverton area is surrounded by the Wind River Indian Reservation. The major partners in the project are Virginia Power, NAC International (which makes casks for spent fuel), and New Corporation (founded by local non-Native American residents who have made money mining uranium).

In 1991 Fremont County applied for grant money from the Nuclear Waste Negotiator to consider hosting a monitored retrievable storage facility. The Governor of Wyoming nixed that project, but it resurfaced in 1994 and in 1997 as a proposed private waste facility.

The facility would be one mile from Boynsen Reservoir, where the Bighorn River starts. Water in the Bighorn eventually flows into the Mississippi River. The economy of Fremont County, which relies heavily on tourism associated with nearby wilderness areas and Yellowstone Park, would be negatively impacted by the stigma of a nuclear waste facility.

The Joint Council of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapahoe Tribes on the Wind River Indian Reservation is opposed to the facility.



Citizens Fight Dumps Across the Country

By Tori Woodard

INTRODUCTION

Grassroots activism has deeply impacted the disposition of "low level" radioactive waste (LLRW) in the U.S. By preventing the construction of new LLRW facilities, our movement has forced people who generate LLRW (called generators) to reduce the volume of waste. They are doing that in two ways: 1) using practices that generate less waste in the first place, and 2) using supercompaction and incineration to reduce the volume of waste once it has been generated.

Many generators are shipping LLRW to waste "treatment" facilities in the vicinity of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, where the waste is "treated" by incineration or supercompaction. Since radioactivity cannot be destroyed, these methods produce smaller volumes of waste that contain proportionately more radioactivity. The condensed waste is shipped back to the generator, to an intermediary who stores it, or to a disposal facility.

There are massive LLRW dumps at almost every site in the nuclear weapons complex. But the great shipments of waste to disposal facilities seem to travel primarily to four locations: the Nevada Test Site; the Barnwell, South Carolina, facility next to the Savannah River Site; the Richland LLRW dump on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation (in Washington state); and a private mixed waste dump operated by Envirocare in Utah.

This article will explore the waste treatment situation in Tennessee, discuss the four sites that import the most LLRW, then examine the current status of government attempts to create more LLRW dumps.

TENNESSEE

Waste companies have been trying to take over Roane County, Tennessee, since 1989 or 1990. The East Tennessee Economic Council, a private group of businessmen, predicted Roane County would be the "world leader in waste handling" in 20 years.

Scientific Ecology Group (SEG) started recycling radioactive materials in the back of a flea market. The company got bigger and bigger, was bought by Westinghouse, then was sold to GTS Duratech. SEG now incinerates, melts and compacts waste ranging from chlorinated organic compounds and heavy metals to plutonium and enriched uranium.

Diversified Scientific Services Inc. (DSSI) moved in next to a school for people with disabilities and promised to bring in only one kind of medical waste. Now they burn hundreds of different hazardous and radioactive wastes from nuclear power plants and Department of Energy (DOE) sites around the country.

Within four miles of SEG is the only TSCA (Toxic Substances Control Act)

incinerator in DOE's nuclear weapons complex — at the Oak Ridge Reservation. The huge Oak Ridge plant has attracted the waste companies to the area.

Working conditions in the waste

facilities include unsafe levels of radiation, having to wear protective gear in the heat, and low pay. Many local residents and former Oak Ridge employees have become chronically ill since the incinerators went on line.

The Roane County Chapter of Save Our Cumberland Mountains has stopped the citing of two medical waste incinerators, a laundry for contaminated clothing from Oak Ridge, and a landfill. They nixed a zoning plan that would have allowed more waste companies to move in. They started a community-based visioning and planning process with the NAACP and the Union of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (See Contacts, page 17).

NEVADA TEST SITE

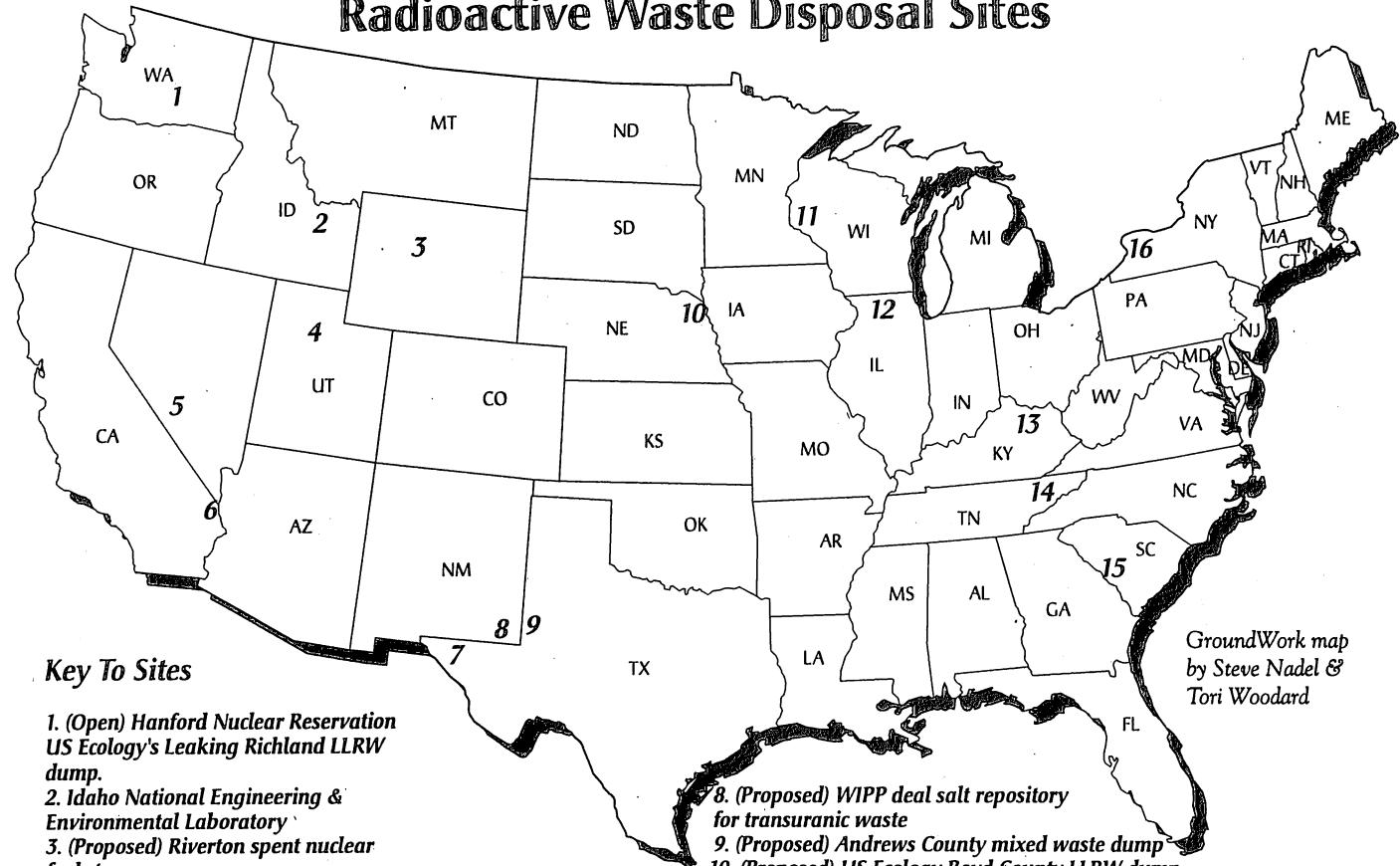
About 15 truckloads of LLRW arrive each week at the Nevada Test Site, moving along Interstate 40 from facilities that the Department of Energy (DOE) is cleaning up, such as Fernald, Ohio; Rocky Flats, Colorado; and Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico.

The waste is buried in three 2-foot-deep, unlined trenches. Earthquake,



Since the 1980s, thousands of people have protested and committed civil disobedience at Nevada Test Site. For Spring 1998 Test Site actions, see page 39. Photo by Dana Schuerholz, Impact Visuals.

Radioactive Waste Disposal Sites



GroundWork map
by Steve Nadel &
Tori Woodard

Key To Sites

1. (Open) Hanford Nuclear Reservation US Ecology's Leaking Richland LLRW dump.
2. Idaho National Engineering & Environmental Laboratory
3. (Proposed) Riverton spent nuclear fuel storage
4. (Open) Environmental mixed waste dump
5. (Open) Nevada Test Site LLRW
- (Closed) US Ecology's leaking Beatty dump
- (Proposed) Yucca Mt. spent nuclear fuel storage
6. (Proposed) US Ecology's Ward Valley LLRW dump
7. (Proposed) Sierra Blanca LLRW dump
8. (Proposed) WIPP deal salt repository for transuranic waste
9. (Proposed) Andrews County mixed waste dump
10. (Proposed) US Ecology Boyd County LLRW dump
11. (Open) NSP's spent nuclear fuel storage, Prairie Island
12. (Closed) US Ecology's leaking Sheffield LLRW dump
13. (Closed) US Ecology's leaking Maxey Flats LLRW dump
14. Oak Ridge Nuclear Reservation
15. Savannah River Plant
- (Open) Chem Nuclear's Barnwell LLRW dump
16. (Closed) West Valley Leaking LLRW

groundwater, and vulcanism concerns about the proposed Yucca Mountain repository (see pages 7-8) also apply to the Nevada Test Site. Yucca Mountain is partially on the Nevada Test Site.

Protests against the waste shipments escalated in April 1997, when a road blockade enhanced by cement barrels, lockboxes, and an old car completely shut down the Nevada Test Site for several hours. A sympathetic judge in Las Vegas later sentenced the blockaders to pay a \$200 fine to Shundahai Network (which had organized the blockade) or do 40 hours of community service for Shundahai. Shundahai Network was founded by Corbin Harney, a Western Shoshone spiritual leader.

BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

For thirty years the LLRW dump at Barnwell, South Carolina, accepted waste from commercial nuclear industries

around the country. Then in June 1994 South Carolina closed Barnwell to all generators except those located in the Southeastern (SE) Compact (see map, page 13).

South Carolina later struck a deal to get tax revenue from the dump, and reopened it to every state but North Carolina. (South Carolina is punishing North Carolina for balking at hosting the SE Compact's next dump.) Of the \$300-400 minimum that generators pay for every cubic foot of waste sent to Barnwell, the state gets \$235 for educational assistance programs.

In keeping with the national trend, the volume of waste sent to Barnwell is decreasing. That means South Carolina's income from the dump is falling. To remedy that, South Carolina has required the dump operator (Chem Nuclear) to pay an annual license tax equal to any shortfall in the education fund. To meet

its obligation to the state, Chem Nuclear is selling guaranteed units of future disposal capacity to generators.

RICHLAND, WASHINGTON

US Ecology dumps LLRW into unlined trenches on the Department of Energy's (DOE) Hanford Nuclear Reservation next to Richland, Washington. The Richland dump receives waste only from the Northwestern Compact and the Rocky Mountain Compact (see map).

TOOELE, UTAH

Envirocare (don't you love these names?) puts mixed waste, uranium mill tailings, naturally-occurring radioactive materials (NORM) such as radon, and LLRW that is low in radioactivity into unlined trenches near Tooele, about 30 west of Salt Lake City, Utah. Envirocare's waste comes from both DOE's nuclear weapons

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complex and commercial nuclear facilities.

WARD VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

In February 1998, Native American tribes and their allies in the Ward Valley Coalition successfully resisted government soil testing which could have paved the way for licensing a dump at Ward Valley. Any further attempt to conduct soil tests will be met by a direct action campaign. (A report on the ongoing Ward Valley resistance is on page 18).

The proposed dump operator (US Ecology) has found tritium 100 feet underground at Ward Valley. Tritium is radioactive hydrogen from above-ground hydrogen bomb tests. Its presence underground indicates rainwater moves down through the dry soil in Ward Valley much faster and farther than anticipated, and suggests that the unlined trenches proposed for the dump will contaminate the groundwater and the Colorado River 18 miles away.

US Ecology's closed LLRW dumps in Sheffield, Illinois; Maxey Flats, Kentucky; and Beatty, Nevada, have all leaked. Opponents of the Ward Valley dump believe no more tests are needed. What's more, since the land in Ward Valley is sacred to local tribes, the Coalition is

opposed to the siting of any kind of radioactive waste facility there, whether or not it is likely to leak.

SIERRA BLANCA, TEXAS

California and Texas are the only states pushing to host new LLRW dumps. The State of Texas recruited Vermont and Maine to form a new compact and ship their waste to Sierra Blanca, Texas.

Sierra Blanca, 12 miles from the Rio Grande, is a low income, predominantly Spanish-speaking area. The region is arid, but located above a large aquifer. Every day 125 tons of sewage sludge from New York City are dumped across the road from the site of the proposed LLRW facility. Would it be environmentally just to subject this community to two dumps?

Every compact must be approved by Congress. The Texas-Maine-Vermont Compact bill was defeated the first time it was introduced, but passed the House the second time. Senator Paul Wellstone (D-MN) is currently holding up the bill in the Senate pending a full hearing on environmental justice impacts.

The owners of the Maine Yankee nuclear power plant announced this year that they will shut it down early, and that it would be cheaper to ship the decommissioning waste to Barnwell than to Sierra Blanca. Even though the

proposed compact has not been approved and one of the major generators in it doesn't even want the facility, a huge test trench has already been dug at Sierra Blanca.

Local dump opponent Bill Addington fasted for 55 days while Congress considered the compact bill this fall. He ended his fast by being a judge at a chili cook-off.

ANDREWS COUNTY, TEXAS

In February 1997, Waste Control Specialists, Inc. (WCS), opened a dump for hazardous waste in Andrews County, Texas, just across the border from Eunice, New Mexico, and only 40 miles from the WIPP site (see p. 6). Now WCS is trying to modify their permit so they can also handle, process and store LLRW and mixed low level waste.

People living in Andrews, Texas (30 miles away) were denied affected party standing in the State of Texas hearings on the modification. People in Eunice have no standing in Texas. In September 1997 the Texas Bureau of Radiation Control recommended approval of WCS' permit modification. AWARE (Atomic Waste and Radiation Education) appealed the decision, but their appeal was denied.

As we went to press, AWARE was considering what to do next. Being a new group in a mostly pro-dump town, they could use financial contributions (see Contacts, page 17)

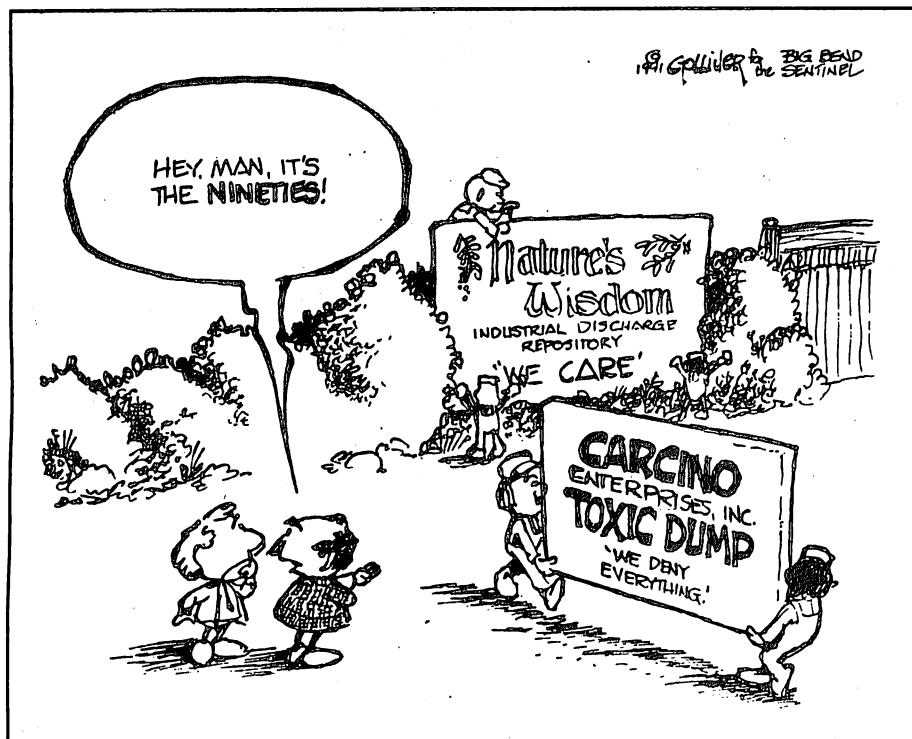
MIDWEST COMPACT DUMPS DUMP

In June 1997, the Midwest Interstate Compact Commission voted to scuttle plans to build a LLRW dump in Ohio, citing a decreased volume of waste, continued access to dumps in Utah and South Carolina, and cost factors. This was a great victory for dump opponents, who were gathering signatures at the time to put the issue on the ballot in Ohio.

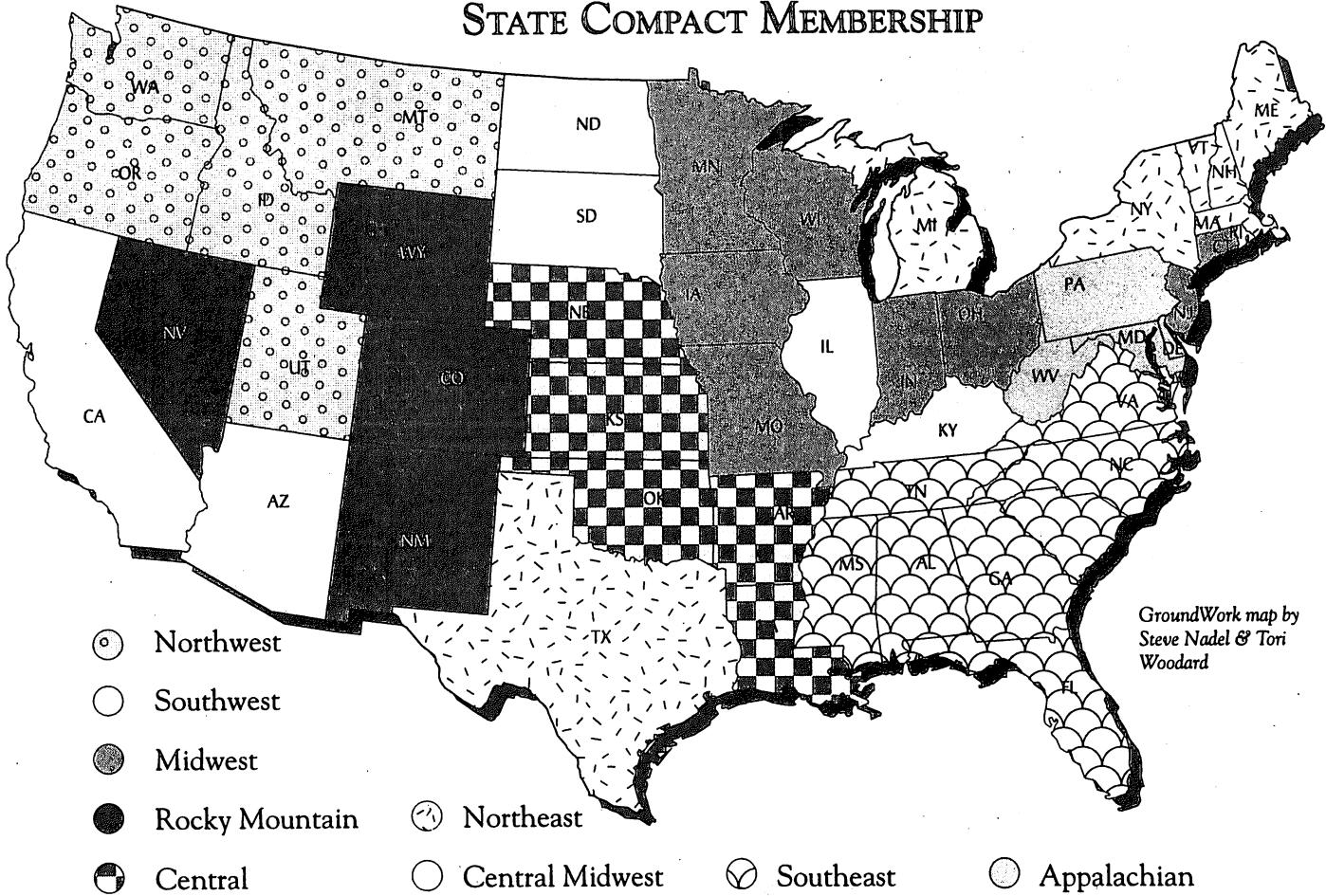
In January 1997, the Midwest Compact entered an Interregional Facility Access Agreement with the SW Compact.

ILLINOIS SLOWS DOWN DUMP PROJECT

In Illinois (the host state for the Central Midwest Compact), activists pushed through a June 1997 law that provides for local veto power over the siting of any



STATE COMPACT MEMBERSHIP



LLRW facility. The law also calls for a two-year study of LLRW issues, including new volume projections, what's going on in other states and compacts, and what might happen in Congress.

The Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (DNS) recommends not opening a LLRW facility until at least the year 2012, when the nuclear reactors in the compact will begin to be decommissioned. If they were to open a facility in 2003 as originally planned, they would have to charge a minimum of \$900 per cubic foot of waste received. The large amount of waste from decommissioning might make the facility cost effective. Patty Thompson of DNS also said the compact may never build a facility, if facilities in other states or compacts will accept their waste.

CIVIL WAR IN THE CIC COMPACT

A civil war has erupted in the Central Interstate Compact (CIC), with Commissioners from Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana shutting

Nebraska Commissioner Greg Hayden out of meetings with attorneys where they discuss ways to attack the host state (Nebraska) and its governor Ben Nelson (who opposes the proposed facility).

On October 15, 1997, Hayden asked the CIC Commission to call a moratorium on the dump project, based on site unsuitability, US Ecology's financial problems, and his projection that the dump will cost \$18,500 per cubic foot of waste received.

In 1993, the Nebraska Department of

Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued a notice of intent to deny US Ecology's license application because the proposed site contains wetlands. DEQ is now debating whether to issue a draft license or another intent to deny.

APPALACHIAN COMPACT, NORTHEASTERN COMPACT

These two compacts are currently looking for communities in Pennsylvania and New Jersey that will volunteer to host LLRW facilities.

"No Nukes": Fallen Activist Needs Support

Stephen Willard, known to anti-nuclear activists as "No Nukes," helped guide protesters to ground zero at the Nevada Test Site in summer 1992. Since then he has worked with the Western Shoshone Defense Project and Shundahai Network.

No Nukes now has a rare form of brain cancer, and needs our help. Send cards, pictures, and altar items to Stephen Willard c/o Jolie Lonner, 1166 Chester Court, Arcata CA 95521. Financial assistance is also needed. For more information, contact Shundahai Network, (702) 647-3095.



New Production Planned

By Tori Woodard

INTRODUCTION

The peace movement was lulled asleep by the demise of the former Soviet Union. Many people think our government is dismantling nuclear weapons, retiring nuclear weapons plants, and cleaning up radioactive contamination. We are fooling ourselves. Instead of reaping the benefits of a peace dividend, our country is continuing to arm itself with ever more destructive weapons.

At \$269 billion, the 1997 U.S. military budget was \$170 billion more than the combined military budgets of all our potential adversaries. In addition to the 3,500 warheads that the START II treaty allows the U.S., our government is keeping enough nuclear weapons in reserve to boost the total arsenal to 10,500 warheads.

This article focuses on:

- new nuclear weapons that are being designed and deployed
- two ways that the government is trying to test nuclear bombs despite the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
- new production of plutonium pits for bombs, and
- new production of tritium for bombs.

NEW NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Although President Clinton, the military, and the Department of Energy (DOE) have pledged that the U.S. will build no new nuclear weapons, a wide variety of new nukes are in fact being developed.

Specifically, DOE has deployed a new earth-penetrating nuclear bomb, and the Department of Defense has already threatened to use it against Libya's alleged chemical weapons factory. A nuclear glide bomb, a nuclear warhead to intercept biological and chemical warheads, an upgrade to MX warheads and strategic bombs, and replacements for Trident

submarine-launched warheads and missiles are also in the works.

These projects clearly violate the Treaty for the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which were signed to prevent the development of new nuclear weapons.

TESTING RESUMES AT NEVADA TEST SITE

Over 1,000 nuclear bombs have been exploded at Nevada Test Site on land taken from the Western Shoshone Indian Nation. The peace movement worked for forty years to achieve a Comprehensive

Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) to stop such tests. In response to public pressure, President Bush declared a moratorium on nuclear bomb tests in October 1992. A CTBT was finally signed in

September 1996, but less than one year later the U.S. redefined the term "testing" and started conducting "subcritical" tests.

"Subcritical" means placing weapons-grade plutonium next to conventional high explosives and detonating the mixture. DOE claims the tests do not violate the CTBT because they are not designed to cause a self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction. Opponents believe the tests do violate the CTBT.

DOE conducted two underground "subcritical" tests at the Nevada Test Site in 1997. Each test was protested in cities around the U.S., as well as at the front gate and — most dramatically — inside the Test Site at ground zero. The night before the July 1997 test, three people bicycled forty miles across desert terrain to the test location. They hid under a trailer with climbing equipment and a banner, but were discovered and escorted out before they could hang the banner. During the September test, one man walked the forty miles to ground zero.

More protests are planned for the 1998 tests, which are code-named Icebound, Ash, Boomerang, and Beech. The exact date of each test is available only a few days before the test occurs. For more information, contact Shundahai Network (see contacts, page 17, and page 39 for info on the spring gathering at NTS).

NEW MISSIONS FOR OLD PLANTS

In the name of jobs and national security, DOE has trumped up new military missions for its massive nuclear weapons complex. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories (CA) gets to build a multi-billion dollar National Ignition Facility. Los Alamos National Laboratory (NM) gets to fabricate plutonium pits. The old Fast Flux Test Facility at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation (WA) may be fired up again to produce tritium.

LABORATORY-SCALE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS

The National Ignition Facility (NIF) will be a huge laser installation intended to



produce laboratory-scale thermonuclear explosions. With it, Livermore can teach a new generation of scientists how to design nuclear weapons.

Some scientists at Los Alamos believe NIF will fail: it won't produce a thermonuclear explosion. If it works, opponents think the thermonuclear explosion will violate the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

NIF got off to a slow start when crews digging the huge hole for its foundation uncovered more than 100 PCB-containing capacitors and 75 crushed waste drums labeled "radioactive." Tri-Valley CAREs and 38 other groups had already sued DOE to try to stop NIF. They took DOE back to court to get an environmental investigation of the old, undocumented dump.

NEW KINDS OF PLUTONIUM PITS

\$1 billion will be spent to expand facilities at Los Alamos so that they can manufacture more plutonium pits for bombs. Los Alamos already has the capacity to manufacture up to 20 pits a year. Los Alamos will use the same process that contaminated DOE's Rocky Flats, Colorado plant so badly that it had to shut down permanently.

Meanwhile, DOE is storing 10,000 plutonium pits at its Pantex plant near Amarillo, Texas, and has declared 50 metric tons of them to be "excess." The existing pits have been thoroughly checked for safety and reliability.

The only reason for making more pits is to make new kinds of pits. But making new kinds of pits would undermine the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the Nonproliferation Treaty. New pit designs would also be less reliable because they cannot be tested under current treaties.

Who wants new pits? The Navy, for example, which wants the new earth-penetrating warheads on all of its Trident missiles.



Ten peace activists from the Tri-Valley CAREs group join hands and turn their backs on the dedication ceremonies for the National Ignition Facility at Livermore Lab in California. Photo courtesy of Tri-Valley CAREs.

NEW TRITIUM PRODUCTION

Tritium (a radioactive isotope of hydrogen) increases the destructive power of a nuclear weapon, but it is not needed to create a nuclear weapon. Nevertheless, DOE insists that we need more tritium.

DOE abandoned its plans to build a new tritium reactor. That's a victory for us! Now DOE is looking at three options: 1) build a linear accelerator; 2) make tritium in commercial nuclear power plants; 3) make tritium in Hanford's Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF).

The Tennessee Valley Authority is doing a trial run to see if they can make tritium at one of the Watts Bar commercial nuclear power reactors. The results will be known this winter. Other nuclear power companies such as Niagara Mohawk in New York have offered to make tritium if the technology works.

For at least forty years, U.S. policy has been to keep military and commercial uses of the atom separate. If we start making radioactive materials for bombs in commercial nuclear power reactors, how can we expect other countries not to do the same? Egypt has already complained about DOE's plan to make tritium in a commercial reactor.

Firing up the FFTF to make tritium would revert Hanford's mission from cleanup to nuclear weapons production. Built in the '60s, the FFTF was not designed to make tritium. To make only

two kilograms of tritium per year, it would create one ton of highly reactive plutonium oxide waste. Peak temperature in the fuel elements would be close to the melting point, raising serious safety questions.

CAMPAIGN TO ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS

In April 1995, during the first weeks of the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review and Extension Conference, activists from around the world recognized that the abolition of nuclear weapons was not on the agenda. They convened to write the founding document of the Abolition

2000 Network. Over 700 Non-Governmental Organizations on six continents have now signed it and are actively working to accomplish its goals.

Abolition 2000 calls on all nations to conclude by the year 2000 a treaty that requires the phased elimination of all nuclear weapons within a set timeframe. All nations are also asked to pledge never to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons, to prohibit the production and reprocessing of all weapons-usable radioactive materials, and to develop sustainable and environmentally safe energy sources.

Abolition 2000 recognizes that indigenous peoples have borne the largest brunt of nuclear devastation, from mining of uranium and testing of nuclear weapons on indigenous peoples' land, to dumping, storage and transport of plutonium and nuclear wastes.

There are many ways to join this growing movement:

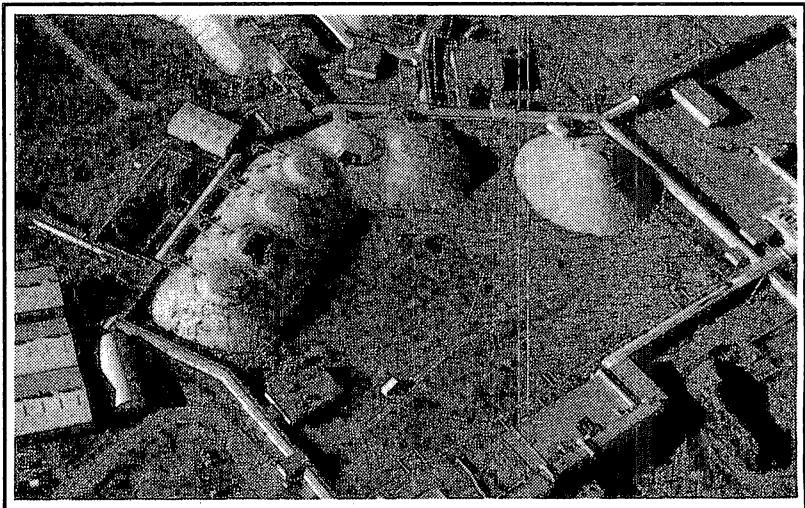
- collect signatures from individuals on the Abolition 2000 petition, and seek endorsements of the Abolition 2000 Statement from religious, social, educational, and professional groups
- have your city sign the Abolition 2000 Resolution for Municipalities
- use the sunflower symbol of Abolition 2000 on posters, buttons, etc.

To obtain an info packet, contact the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation — see contacts, page 17, or www.hookele.com/abolition2000/



Disarmament, Cleanup and Conversion

By Tori Woodard



INTRODUCTION

When the Soviet Union fell apart, peace and justice advocates felt our time had come. The U.S. could stop building weapons and start dismantling them instead. Surplus military facilities could be converted to civilian use, and money could be redirected from nuclear weapons production to cleaning up the nuclear weapons complex.

Fortunately, some of that has happened, and we can be proud of our role in bringing it about. But our government continues to spend more money making new nuclear weapons than it spends on cleanup. There are also problems with the way disarmament, cleanup and conversion are being carried out.

This article explores the high stress job of dismantling nuclear weapons, debunks DOE's Ten Year Plan to clean up the nuclear weapons complex, looks at progress cleaning up two DOE sites (Savannah River, South Carolina, and Hanford, Washington), and exposes the problems with conversion at Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

"*Gravel Gerties*" are circular concrete structures whose roofs consist of cable mesh supporting large amounts of gravel. Beneath them, workers assemble and disassemble nuclear warheads. Should a weapon detonate, the roof is designed to cave in. DOE hopes no plutonium will escape. The workers certainly will not. Photo from the Pantex Plant, Amarillo, Texas, by DOE.

DISMANTLING THE BOMB IN A HOSTILE WORK ENVIRONMENT

DOE's Pantex plant near Amarillo, Texas, has been disassembling nuclear weapons to bring the number of warheads in the U.S. arsenal to levels negotiated under START II (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaties). They plan to disassemble 1,500 more nuclear weapons between now and the end of 1999. At that time disassembly will stop unless the U.S. signs another treaty. The U.S. will still have about 10,500 nuclear warheads.

This year whistleblowers gave us a glimpse of what it is like to disassemble weapons. Workers felt so harassed and unsafe at Pantex that they filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Labor. In December 1996 OSHA concluded that the

whistleblowers work in a hostile work environment. Mason & Hanger, the plant contractor, contested the OSHA ruling. This section presents some of the problems that were revealed in the ensuing trial testimony.

High pressure environment. Weapons are disassembled inside "gravel gerties" (see photo above), in which tons of gravel hang suspended over the workers' heads. If the conventional high explosives in a nuclear bomb should explode, the gravel would bury the bomb and the workers. In this already high-stress environment, the workers were pushed to accelerate production.

Crowding. To save time, four or five bombs were brought into a work bay at once, crowding the bay and increasing worker exposure to radiation. No more than two bombs are supposed to be in a bay at any one time.

Threat of explosion. Inside each bomb is a sphere of high explosive wrapped around a plutonium "pit". The high explosive will explode if dropped more than 1.4 feet. Much of the high explosive in old bombs



RCRA Cap. Ten acres of black plastic cover a radioactive waste landfill at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The plastic supposedly prevents gases from escaping, and keeps rainwater from leaching contaminants into the groundwater. Installed in 1989, the cap is designed to last 15-20 years. Let's hope someone remembers to replace it for the next 100,000 years or so. Photo by DOE.

continued on page 44



GRASSROOTS GROUPS FIGHT WASTE DUMPS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Get Involved — Make a Difference!

Alliance for Nuclear Accountability
1801 18th Street NW, Suite 9-2
Washington DC 20036
(202) 833-4668

Atomic Waste & Radiation Education (AWARE)
P.O. Box 225
Andrews TX 79714
(915) 523-4194

Citizens Awareness Network
80 Davenport, Rowe MA 01367
(413) 339-4374

Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping (CARD)
144 Harvard SE
Albuquerque NM 87106
(505) 266-2663
<http://www.unm.edu/~rekp/card.html>

Energy Research Foundation
537 Harden Street
Columbia SC 29205
(803) 256-7298

Hanford Education Action League (HEAL)
1720 North Ash
Spokane WA 99205-4202
(509) 326-3370
www.iea.com/~heal

Los Alamos Study Group
212 E. Marcy Street, Suite 7
Santa Fe NM 87501
(505) 982-7747
lasg@igc.apc.org

Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force
4550 W. Oakey Blvd., Suite 111
Las Vegas NV 89102
(800) 227-9809

Nuclear Age Peace Foundation
1187 Coast Village Road, Suite 123
Santa Barbara CA 93108
(805) 965-3443
wagingpeace@naf.org
www.hookele.com/abolition2000/

Nuclear Energy Information Service (NEIS)
P.O. Box 1637
Evanston IL 60204-1637
(847) 869-7650
neis@forward.net
www.neis.org

Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS)
1424 16th Street NW, Suite 404
Washington DC 20036
(202) 328-0002
nirsnet@igc.apc.org
www.nirs.org

Nuclear Resister
P.O. Box 43383
Tucson AZ 85733
(520) 323-8697
nukeresister@igc.org

Nukewatch
P.O. Box 649
Luck WI 54853
(715) 472-4185
nukewatch@win.bright.net

Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA)
100 Tulsa Road, Suite 4A
Oak Ridge TN 37830
(423) 483-8202
www.korrnet.org/fgs

Ohng Gaudadeh Devia
P.O. Box 155
Tooele UT 84074
(801) 831-4614

Prairie Island Coalition Against Nuclear Storage (PICANS)
P.O. Box 174
Lake Elmo MN 55042
(610) 770-3861
gwillc@mpn.org

Rocky Mountain Peace & Justice Center
P.O. Box 1156
Boulder CO 80302
(303) 444-6981

Save Boyd County Association
P.O. Box 219
Spencer NE 68777
(402) 589-1148

Save Our Cumberland Mountains
Roane County Chapter
530 Old Johnston Valley Road
Kingston TN 37763
(423) 376-0822
SOCM@tdsnet.com

Save Sierra Blanca
P.O. Box 218
Sierra Blanca TX 79851
(915) 369-2541

Save Ward Valley — see next page

Shundhai Network
5007 Elmhurst Lane
Las Vegas NV 89108
(702) 647-3095
www.shundhai.org

Snake River Alliance
310 East Center Street
Pocatello ID 83201
(208) 234-4782

Save Texas Agriculture and Resources (STAR)
7105 West 34th Street, Suite E
Amarillo TX 79109
(806) 358-2622

Tri-Valley CAREs
5720 East Avenue #116
Livermore CA 94550
(510) 443-7148
marylia@igc.apc.org

Wyoming Outdoor Council
262 Lincoln Street
Lander WY 82520
(307) 332-7031



OPEPA activists protest at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Photo courtesy of OREPA.





Ward Valley: Coalition faces down Feds, then faces difficult internal issues

NATIVE AMERICANS, ALLIES OCCUPY

BY TORI WOODARD

On February 13, 1998, the five Tribes in the Colorado River Native Nations Alliance and their allies began a spiritual occupation of Ward Valley, California. The federal government tried to close Ward Valley to the public on that day, in order to test for tritium in the sediments under the site of a proposed radioactive waste dump. The testing would have desecrated land that is sacred to the Tribes.

This article will describe the unique resistance tactics used by the Colorado River Native Nations Alliance, then explore some of the issues that have come up in this multi-cultural fight for environmental justice.

RESISTANCE TACTICS USED

The most unique development in this struggle is the local Native Americans' use of ritual as a blockade tactic. On the night of February 13, traditional singers and dancers performed ancient songs about the Mojave desert in the middle of the road leading to the proposed dump site. These songs are sacred to the Tribes, and can be compared to the Psalms in the Bible. Singing the songs is akin to singing in a church choir, and singing them in Ward Valley is akin to singing hymns in a cathedral.

Tribal members believe they originated from Spirit Mountain north of Ward Valley, so the entire area is sacred to them.

When the Tribes asserted their right to perform religious ceremonies on this land, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was stumped. The Clinton Administration would not look good if its agency started arresting little old ladies, especially little old Indian ladies, for conducting religious ceremonies. BLM

chose to stay on the other side of the freeway from the occupation, monitoring it from afar for twelve days. BLM finally pulled out altogether, leaving the Native Americans and protesters in control of Ward Valley.

The second key to success for the Tribes was to work closely with environmental activists such as Earth First!, Food Not Bombs, Headwaters, Shundahai Network, former Greenpeace canvassers, and other individuals and groups who had come to Ward Valley on previous occasions for large annual gatherings.

On February 13 and 14, the Tribes placed the environmental activists in the front line, where the activists locked themselves together in a human chain to prevent BLM from removing the Native American Elders. On February 18, when there was another showdown with BLM,

contacts and extensive organizational networks.

The Tribes came up with a very creative idea for Monday night, February 23. They held a traditional funeral ceremony for a European-American woman, Stormy Williams, who was very active in the campaign to save Ward Valley until her death last summer. Holding a traditional funeral ceremony for a non-Native American is unheard of. It was intended to bring honor to all of the activists who were present.

Burying Stormy's ashes in Ward Valley also transformed the proposed dump site into a traditional burial ground. (The government has repeatedly rejected the Tribes' claim that this land is sacred because no specific burial sites have been identified there.)

Another important element in the success of the occupation is its aura of militant nonviolence. The Tribes achieved this by inviting American Indian Movement (AIM) groups from Phoenix and Los Angeles to provide security. While these two AIM groups are committed to nonviolence, their visible presence has rattled the government.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

A big reward for me in this occupation has been seeing Native Americans grow into their power and assume leadership roles. Shy Tribal women have stayed at the camp, made friends, felt appreciated, realized they were making a difference, and found their voice. They speak up now in large circles and even in front of media cameras.

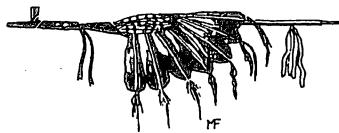
Equally important is the cultural renaissance that the threat of the dump has accelerated. Tribal youth are more interested in learning traditional songs



the Tribes had the activists put away their lockboxes and join the spiritual ceremonies instead. As it turned out, BLM did not try to remove the occupiers, so the lockboxes would have been useless anyway.

Tribal representatives have repeatedly expressed their appreciation for the activists, who provided the large meeting tents, food, water, sanitation, cellphones, radios, and transportation for the occupation, and tapped their media

PROPOSED NUCLEAR DUMP SITE



when the songs are used in a modern battle. Spirit Runs have been revived. These are relay runs along ancient running trails through the desert. The runners pray as they run, reconnecting to the earth and to their ancestors who ran on these same paths. Non-Native supporters are always welcome to participate in the Spirit Runs.

It is heartening to see the five Tribes work together, for there are many centuries-old divisions and animosities among them.

It is exciting to see these isolated Tribes receiving so much regional, national, and even international support from other indigenous groups. They are joining a global network of indigenous people who are fighting for their cultural, religious, human, health, land and water rights. Those connections will serve the Tribes well long after we have defeated the Ward Valley dump project.

It is hopeful to see non-Native Americans working with the Tribes. This is the kind of support that Tribal people need in order to preserve their cultures in today's ever-encroaching consumer society.

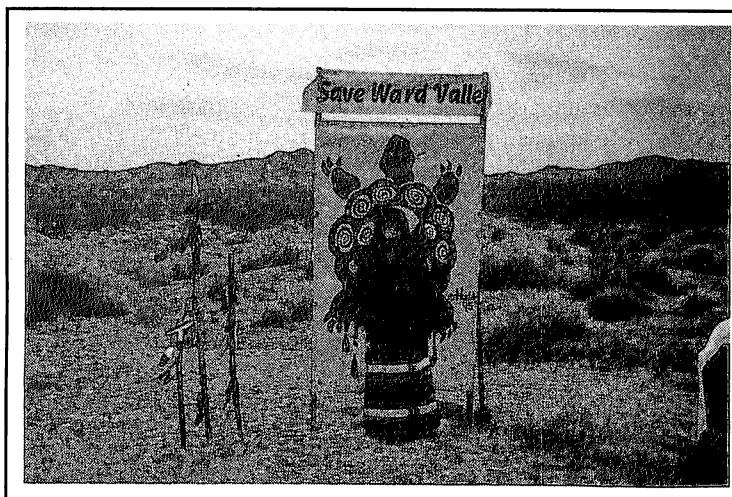
This article would not be complete if it glossed over the problems incurred during the occupation. Cross-cultural work is very demanding for every culture involved. I can only speak from my side of the cultural gap. A Native American writer could give you a different perspective.

THE NONVIOLENCE ISSUE

A major issue around nonviolence arose during the occupation. Several Native American youth said they are not committed to nonviolence if anyone touches the Elders. A Tribal spokesperson confirmed in a radio interview that

"things will change" if anyone touches the Elders.

We are still trying to get clarity on this issue from Tribal leaders. If a confrontation with police is in our future, are they committed to having it be nonviolent? If a Tribal member tries to defend an Elder with a violent act, would it be appropriate or inappropriate for the rest of us to intervene?



I should note here that AIM security has strictly enforced our no weapons guideline. People even leave their pocket knives in town when they come out to Ward Valley.

Only two Tribal groups have taken nonviolence training. Efforts to organize nonviolence trainings on other Indian reservations have been met with shrugs and "we don't need that" type of comments.

It has been frustrating to not be able to share the tactics and strategies of nonviolence with Tribal members. On the one hand, not having been trained, they are creating unique new forms of nonviolent resistance. But on the other hand, by not taking the training they may not know simple solidarity tactics that could protect them in Ward Valley, in jail, and in court. And taking the training would help them to understand the activist mentality better.

Being frustrated in our efforts to train

people, non-Native co-organizers of the occupation tried another tack. We suggested that the Tribes negotiate with the police to allow Elders to walk unassisted, uncuffed and untouched to a police vehicle if arrests should occur.

The government has stated that it will not try to remove the occupiers if Elders are present. This indicates they are aware of the potentially explosive situation.

The lack of clarity around commitment to nonviolence guidelines presents an organizing dilemma. We need people to come to Ward Valley for the occupation, but we cannot at this point guarantee that it will remain nonviolent.

DECISION-MAKING

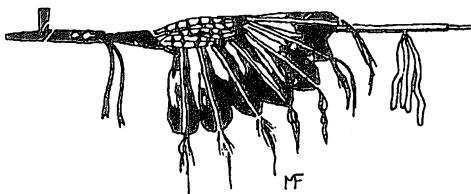
The second biggest problem for non-Native Americans during the occupation has been following the lead of the Tribes. Many activists who responded to the Tribal call for help with the occupation are used to sharing power.

Tribal representatives have made all of the decisions during the occupation. Non-Native American representatives have occasionally been invited to observe the Tribal meetings, but have had no voice in them. Tribal decisions have been communicated briefly to the non-Native Americans at the camp, who are expected to carry them out without question. Even clarifying questions from non-Native Americans have been perceived as challenges to the decisions, making it difficult for non-Natives to implement the decisions in a culturally sensitive way.

In most cases, clarification of Native American requests has been achieved through one-to-one discussions between Tribal leaders and non-Native supporters. Outside of the public forum of a large meeting, Tribal leaders have been willing to explain their decisions to activists who

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Innu and Inuit Blockade Construction in Roadless Area

The Voisey's Bay Nickel Company almost got away with building a road in one of the world's largest roadless areas without so much as an environmental review. If it had not been for a direct action protest by the Innu and Inuit peoples, they would have succeeded. This area is among the very few places on the continent that remains relatively unchanged since the first European colonizers arrived 500 years ago.

In fact, it is one of the few places in the world — particularly among lowland, coastal areas — that remains ecologically undisturbed. This region ought to be prized and protected for what it is — for its unspoiled free-flowing rivers, its population of caribou, wolves, raptors, migratory birds, whales, bottlenose dolphins and seals, and other species nearly extinct elsewhere.

The Voisey's Bay Nickel Company (Inco) began construction of a road and an airstrip at Emish (Voisey's Bay,

Newfoundland, Canada) last summer, despite the fact that the Environmental Review process was underway. The company attempted to treat this "advanced exploration infrastructure" as a separate project, and not as part of the project under review.

LAWSUIT FAILS, TRIBES TAKE DIRECT ACTION

The Innu and Inuit tribes went to court, arguing that the environmental assessment process was being undermined. But the Newfoundland Supreme Court ruled against them. The Innu and Inuit appealed, but as the case dragged on, construction was underway.

On August 20, 1997 the first Inuit protesters arrived at the construction site. Over the next two days, Innu from communities in Labrador and Quebec joined them. By the 23rd of August, 300 protesters were at the site, and all work

had stopped. The protesters had stockpiled food and supplies, and were prepared to stay for as long as necessary. By August 28, a temporary injunction was won, preventing any further

construction until the appeal had been decided.

On September 22, the Newfoundland Supreme Court of Appeal ruled in favor of the Aboriginal groups, concluding that the road and airstrip construction cannot be considered a separate project.

"Neither level of government took responsibility to protect the environment here," said Innu Nation Chief Katie Rich, "So the aboriginal people had to do it."

SUPPORT IS NEEDED

Write to the Canadian and Newfoundland governments demanding their own Environmental Assessment process be respected. Express your concern for the future of this wild region, and let them know you are watching their treatment of Aboriginal peoples. Write to:

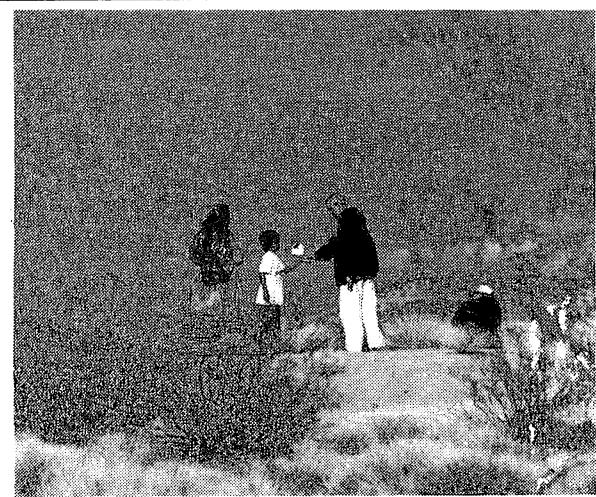
Kevin Alyward
Minister of Environment/Newfoundland
POB 8700
St. Johns, NF, A1B 4J6, Canada

Christine Stewart
Minister of Environment/Canada
Terrace de la Chaudiere
10 Wellington St.
Hull Quebec, K1A 0H3, Canada

Let the Innu know of your support by sending copies of letters to: Katie Rich,

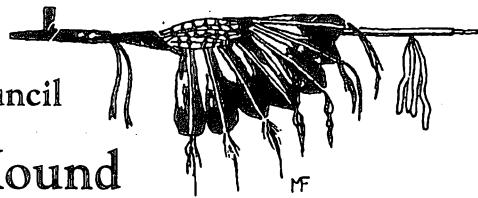
General
Delivery,
David Inlet,
Labrador,
A0P 1A0,
Canada

Excerpted
from
Nitassinan News, PO
Box 804,
Burlington,
VT 05402.
Visit the Innu
Nation web
site:
www.innu.ca



The Colorado River Indian Nations have been at the forefront of the fight to prevent construction of a nuclear waste dump in the Ward Valley desert in Southern California. The struggle has helped spark a cultural renaissance among the tribes of the area — see Tori Woodard's report on page 18-19 of this issue. At right, elders and youth came together for a day of workshops and craft skills-sharing in late 1996. Photos by Bernadette Del Chiaro.





Groups Fight Destruction of Burial Mound

On the southeast slope of San Bruno Mountain is the last undestroyed Indian village site in the San Francisco Bay Area. Thousands of Highway 101 commuters roar past the site every day, oblivious to the mountain's former inhabitants who lived there for over 5000 years.

What was once the home of the Sipliskin branch of the Ohlone Indians is today flanked by modern age billboards and enshrouded in controversy. As part of Phase III of the Terrabay development, SunChase of Arizona has plans to cover over the site with asphalt, commercial building pads, freeway scissor ramps and a token park with a plaque.

Activists from San Bruno Mountain Watch, the International Indian Treaty Council and others are battling against destruction of the site in the hopes of preserving the site in perpetuity. Farnum Allston of Environmental Mitigation Exchange offered SunChase \$2 million for a 90 acre parcel of the 300 acre site. SunChase declined the offer.

SBMW recently acquired a scientific study completed by Miley Holman and Associates that was kept under wraps for over ten years by the former Terrabay developer W.W. Dean. In the study, archeologists found bone fragments confirming a burial site, arrowheads and other tools. The study validates that the site was occupied for 5000 years and abandoned

150 to 250 years ago.

State Senator Tom Hayden is working to amend the California Environmental Quality Act guidelines that make it permissible to "mitigate" destruction of Indian village sites by capping them with cloth and concrete so archeologists of the future can dig them up.

UPHILL BATTLE

Saving the village site remains an uphill battle, as the city of South San Francisco is requiring Phase III commercial development to cover the cost of infrastructure upgrades for the residential Phases I and II of the Terrabay

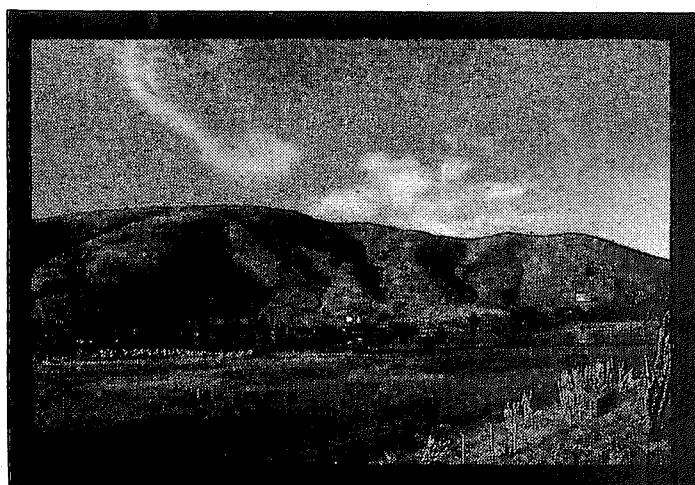


San Bruno Mountain Watch was joined by the Wakwa Society for Indian dancing and ceremonies on the 1997 Fall Equinox in Buckeye Canyon. In the distance the modern age encroaches with the development of the Northeast ridge, concurrent with the Terrabay development occurring on the mountain's South Slopes.

development. According to Senior Planner Steve Carlson, \$400,000 additional tax revenue is necessary.

Environmentalists are hopeful that they can convince the SSF city council to decide against massive commercial development of Phase III. One highrise hotel at the southern end of Terrabay Phase III could provide \$400,000 in tax revenue without destroying the 5000 year old village site. Developers, of course, would prefer to build multiple commercial buildings for hefty profits.

For more information, contact San Bruno Mountain Watch at PO Box A0, Brisbane, CA 94005, (415) 467-6631.



The Indian village site is located on the Southeast slopes of San Bruno Mountain. Millions of commuters pass by the site every day. Most think the mountain is saved. They're oblivious to the development controversy. Photos courtesy of San Bruno Mountain Watch.

On Indian Land

On Indian Land is an excellent source of news and analysis on Indigenous issues, published by Support for Native Sovereignty. *On Indian Land* reports on land struggles, religious rights, political prisoners, and other issues. Subscriptions are \$10 individual, \$20 institutions and international, from PO Box 2104, Seattle, WA 98111, (206) 525-5086.



Midwest Activists Defeat Chip Mill

What is a Chip Mill?

Chip mills are a highly mechanized arm of the pulp and paper industry that can turn a tree into chips in a matter of seconds. Because of their tremendous appetite for trees they encourage massive clearcutting. For example, in Georgia alone more than 130,000 acres of forests are cleared each year to feed the 13 high capacity chip mills in the state.

A chip mill can consume more trees in one month than an average saw mill consumes in an entire year. Increased chip mill operations have already caused some saw mills in the region to go out of business; and, since chip mills consume small trees that would make good lumber if left to grow for another twenty years they threaten the future of existing saw millers.

"Today, there are over 80 high capacity chip mills in the South which have already clearcut millions of acres of forests, severely impacting native ecosystems and local economies," says Cielo Myczack, longtime chip mill activist and Co-coordinator of the Dogwood Alliance. "Agencies are permitting these facilities without considering the environmental and economic impacts; we are asking that no more chip mill permits be issued until a comprehensive environmental and economic impact study is completed."

For more information

Keep up on the Dogwood Alliance's efforts toward sustainable forestry. Contact Danna Smith, North Carolina office, (704) 877-5865, lorax@citcom.net; or Cielo Sand, Chattanooga office, (423) 267-3977, cielosand@juno.com

Edited from Heartbeat, the quarterly newsletter of Heartwood, PO Box 1424, Bloomington, IN 47402, and from their web site, www.bloomington.in.us/heartwood

Since the mid-1980s, the pulp and paper industry has built more than 130 pulp and paper mills, chip mills and whole log facilities in the Southeast and Midwest. Forestland is clearcut and whole trees as small as 3" in diameter are sent to chip mills and ground into postage-sized chips, which are sent to mills, cooked in caustic chemicals, and turned into pulp and paper. In recent years, an increasing percentage of logs and chips taken from Eastern forests are being sold on the global market to Pacific rim countries such as Japan and Korea.

Last summer, this chip mill invasion threatened to arrive at our doorstep. Willamette Industries' proposed an expansion of their Hawesville, Kentucky, pulp and paper mill, which would have included a dock on the Indiana side of the Ohio River to off-load chips shipped by boat.

Thanks in large part to the work of the Dogwood Alliance and many other members of the environmental community who created extensive opposition, Willamette opted not to proceed.

Numerous national, state, and local environmental organizations, the U.S. EPA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service called on the Army Corps of Engineers to deny the permit for this barge

terminal on the grounds that it would have caused adverse economic and environmental impacts and because there is a lack of informa-

tion about the impacts of the proliferating wood chipping industry.

This is a big victory for the Dogwood Alliance and the public because this permit would have greatly broadened the scope of Willamette's impact and because national attention was being focused on this case. This campaign demonstrated that not only are there a large number of citizens concerned about the impacts of the expanding wood chipping industry, but that together we can successfully work toward a more sustainable forest products industry.

Though this is a respite for some forests and local communities, there are many other facilities which are still unsustainably exploiting forests and local communities. Until a comprehensive region-wide study of the impacts of the wood chipping industry is conducted, citizens' concerns will continue to increase. Willamette's withdrawal of this permit request indicates the growing strength of people who are concerned about these potential impacts and demonstrates the need for such a study.

THE DOGWOOD ALLIANCE

In early 1996, over twenty citizen groups from Arkansas to North Carolina united

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August 1997 action at Champion Chip Mill in Caryville, Tennessee. See page 24 for story. Photo courtesy of John Johnson.



New Englanders Protest Chip Mills

On August 19th, protesters shut down logging operations near Duxbury, Vermont, when two Native Forest Network (NFN) activists locked themselves to heavy machinery with kryptonite locks. Logging activities were prevented for the entire day.

Activists from NFN and Earth First! protested the liquidation logging, clearcutting and raw log and wood chip export occurring on this 9000-acre site. Up to 75% of this cut was headed to Quebec to a Domtar paper mill. Domtar is a multinational timber company partially owned by the government of Quebec.

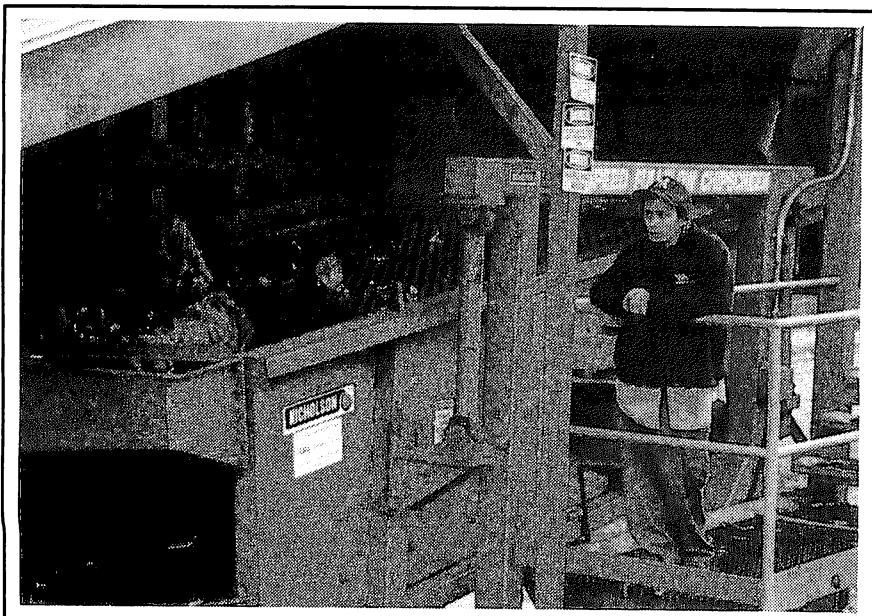
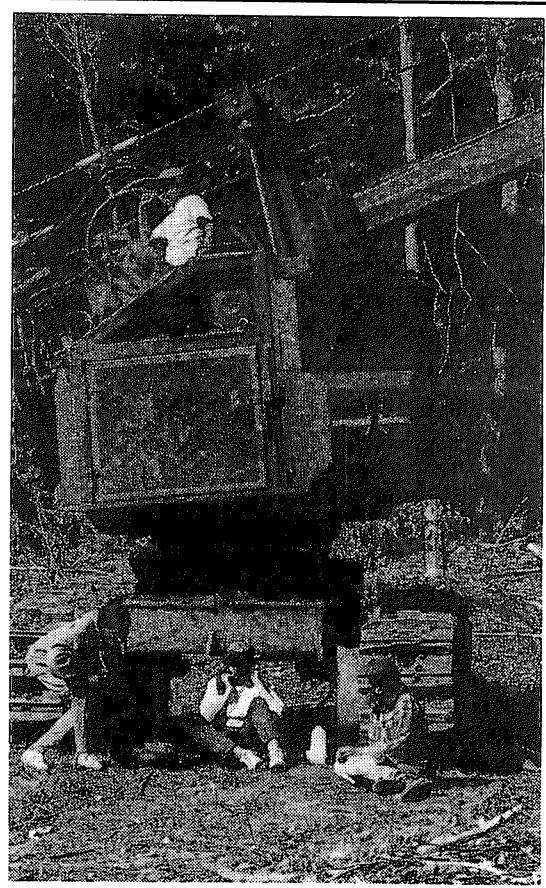
"We sent a clear message that Vermont is not a resource colony for multinationals to exploit," said Anne Petermann of the NFN. "There was almost no economic benefit to anyone in the state — all we got was thousands of acres of ruined forest."

The NFN activists who locked down the machinery were a local woodworker and a history teacher at a nearby high school. Teacher Deborah Ormsbee stated, "I saw logging trucks go by all last year bound for Canada and decided this insanity must stop."

The action was part of NFN's Vermont Forest Practices Campaign, which also includes a call for a ban on all herbicide spraying on Vermont forests. In 1997, due to the efforts of NFN and other groups, Vermont passed legislation which called for an indefinite moratorium on aerial spraying of herbicides.

To get involved in NFN's Campaigns around chip mills and Vermont Forests, contact the NFN Eastern North America Resource Center, PO Box 57, Burlington, VT 05402, (802) 863-0571, nfnena@igc.apc.org

A local schoolteacher locked herself to machinery during a Native Forest Network/Earth First! protest in Vermont, shutting down logging for the day. Photo by Orin Langelle/NFN.



Protester locked to a chipper in New Hampshire. Photo by Orin Langelle/NFN.

Lockdown at Chip Mill in New Hampshire

On June 16th, activists from the Native Forest Network (NFN) and Northeast Ecological Defenders from six states occupied R & J Chipping Enterprises in Shelburne, New Hampshire.

One protester locked himself to a woodchipper shaker with a kryptonite lock, shutting down business as usual until he was arrested.

Two climbers dropped a banner reading, "Native Forests Not Wood Chips" from the operation's headquarters.

The action was part of NFN's international campaign to Boycott Woodchipping [see contact information at end of above story].



Katuah Earth First! Shuts Down Champion Chip Mill for a Day

BY JOHN JOHNSON, KATUAH EARTH FIRST!

At 6:30 a.m. on Monday, August 18th, 1997, environmentalists returned to Champion International's Royal Blue Chip Mill in Campbell County, East Tennessee. By 6:45 a.m. four activists from Katuah Earth First! had taken over the crane in the middle of the log yard. Two activists secured ropes to the boom of the crane and rappelled off, readying a giant banner for deployment. A third activist chained himself to the stairs with a big chain around the waist and U-lock around the neck. The fourth activist was running safety for the other three!

Four other KEF'ers (with the help of a bunch of their friends!) had unloaded four 500 pound stumps and proceeded to lock their arms inside the stumps and their necks to the chain link gate at the main entrance to the chip mill. A completely safe, nonviolent, and successful shut down of the mill's operations!

About twenty Earth Firsters stood outside the gates yelling encouragement to their friends on the blockade and on the crane. They had banners displayed and fliers to hand out to passersby, cops, and mill employees. The biggest howl of the day came when the 25' by 25' banner was unfurled around 7:30 a.m. The message was loud and clear: Champion Destroys Our Jobs, Forests and Rivers.

The media began to arrive and the man chained to the crane worked the cell phone frantically, giving interviews to numerous radio, TV, and print media outlets. The activists out front delivered our message to the assembled media: Chip Mills are destroying the forests of the south at an unprecedented rate. The massive clearcutting is causing degradation of water quality and job loss in the traditional timber-using sectors of the region's economy.

The local cops were quite impressed by our lockdown techniques and bravado. This particular action shut down the Champion Chip Mill for over 12 hours,

effectively halting the chipping operations and temporarily saving some 30-60 acres of Cumberland Plateau Forest. The heat of the day and a promise of quick release (thanks to the negotiating team) brought the front gate blockade to a peaceful end around 3:00 p.m. 2 1/2 hours later, the

and honked encouragement.

The people of the North Cumberland (Scott, Anderson, Campbell and the surrounding counties) know what Champion plans to do to their home. Champion intends to strip the land of the recovering, maturing hardwood forest and replace it with permanently young 30-40 year old "farms" of hardwood pulp trees. Tree farms are not forests. Clearcuts, tree farms and young forests do not provide the same habitat and recreational opportunities that mature native hardwood forests do. They also do not hold or filter air, water and soil the same way. In its never ending quest for profit, Champion International intends to thoughtlessly degrade East Tennessee's quality of life and the necessary healthy forests on which that quality of life depends. The CEO, Board of Directors and shareholders of Champion International are simply too damn greedy to even consider the long term effects of their "business" operations. And you can bet that none of them live in Campbell County or the surrounding areas.

The Royal Blue Chip Mill sends hardwood wood chips by rail and truck to Champion's infamous Canton Paper Mill in Western North Carolina. That paper mill sits on the once beautiful Pigeon River. It has been dumping effluent into the Pigeon River for the last 89 years. Downstream

continued on page 47



August 1997 Action at Champion Chip Mill in Caryville, Tennessee. Eight people were arrested as Earth First!, Native Forest Network Southeast, and Southeast Center for Ecological Awareness shut the mill down. Photo courtesy of Doug Murray.

banner crew (who by this time could hardly feel their legs) began to descend. The last activist came off the crane at exactly 6:30 p.m. EST. The banner was visible from I-75, and many people who drove by the mill gave activists thumbs up



No Rest in Struggle at Cove/Mallard

BY COVE/MALLARD COALITION

For the past several years, forest defenders have fought to preserve the Cove/Mallard area of the Nez Perce National Forest in central Idaho. The 76,000-acre Cove/Mallard area is the largest tract of unlogged forest in the continental U.S.

Two hundred clear cuts, ranging from 20 to 40 acres in size, have been proposed in the area over the last 17 years. The logging operation will result in 145 miles of new roads and about 81 million board feet removed by the truckload from a once-living forest.

Cove/Mallard area is the heart of the Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem. The proposed logging, which will cost taxpayers over 6 million dollars, would destroy the Cove-Mallard region. At this point, only 5% of the forest in the U.S. is "primary forest." How much old-growth are we willing to sacrifice to the logging industry?

The Cove-Mallard Coalition is a loose-knit collection of several organizations and hundreds of individuals trying to stop the devastation. The fall and winter months have been eventful, with both good and bad news for the effort to protect Cove/Mallard.

GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS

On October 17, 1997, the steelhead was formally listed as threatened under the endangered species act. The already-approved Jack timber sale continued despite this listing because the Forest Service claimed no-cut buffers along creeks would protect the crucial habitat that is down-stream of the timber sale. Citizen monitoring has discovered areas on this timber sale where the marked buffer zones were less than required by law. Contract provisions called for an end to logging activities on October 31, another regulation which the Forest Service has "changed." The work is essentially complete on the Jack and Noble timber sales in Cove/Mallard.

On January 7, 1998, the ongoing court case challenging logging in the

Cove/Mallard area brought by the Idaho Sporting Congress was heard by the Federal 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. On Friday, February 13, the court ruled in favor of the logging corporations and against the wildness of Cove/Mallard. While that was not unexpected (many people recognize the influence of corporate power extends to every niche of our society), the decision was odd. All it said was that the District Court's decision was upheld. This lack of an explanation is puzzling, but it does provide a better opportunity for a future legal challenge.

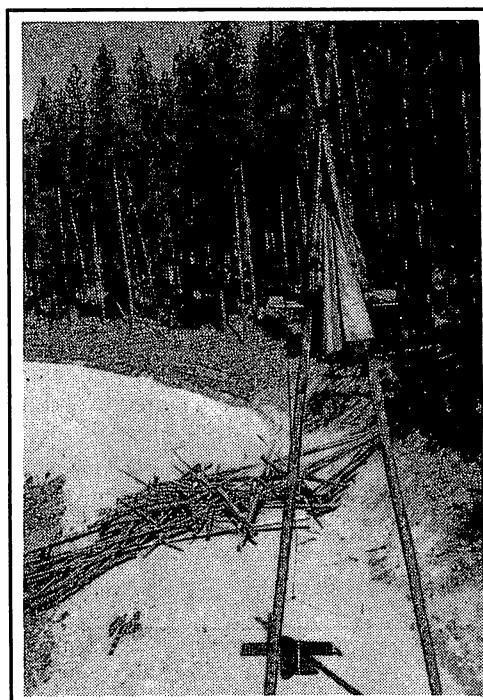
The good news is that no logging is expected on any sale this summer as the "threatened" listing of steelhead has delayed further sales until more analysis is done. Furthermore, the Forest Service recently proposed a temporary moratorium on any roadbuilding in

roadless areas. It appears Cove/Mallard will be safe for another year or two. To date about 15 to 20 percent of the timber has been cut and the same percentage of road built. Luckily, most of Cove/Mallard is still wild despite the cutting of Jack and Noble this past year.

However, the Cove/Mallard Coalition will not be resting this summer.

We plan on having an active campaign in the area, monitoring the results of the Jack and Noble timber sales, doing field surveys, conducting hikes into the area, and planning for restoration of the Noble and Jack areas. Come join us this summer!

For more information contact Cove/Mallard Coalition, Box 8968 Moscow, ID 83843, (208)882-9755, cove@moscow.com



Cove/Mallard activists erected tripods and road barricades during 1997 protests, slowing down logging operations in the largest wilderness area in the continental U.S. Photo courtesy Cove/Mallard Coalition.

Alaskans Defend Their Forests — Again

Like a bad dream that eerily repeats itself, the Forest Service's plans to log places like Resurrection, Sixmile, Moose Pass, and Kenai Lake have come back to haunt us. The Forest Service is trying to sell trees in the same watersheds that it tried to open to logging last year.

What they're missing, however, is the message they should have gotten from the massive public resistance they met last

year: most Alaskans who use and care for these particular watersheds are bitterly opposed to the logging.

We will help local groups network and provide support through the Anchorage-based clearinghouse. Call (907) 566-2468. Let's all stay in the loop!

— from Wild Voices, PO Box 230916 Anchorage, AK 99523, (907) 566-2468, www.wildvoices.org



Thousands Join in Earth

BY ANNE ARCKY

c. 1997, Mendocino Environmental Center

As the Earth First! direct action basecamp for Headwaters Forest closed down for the winter season, the Headwaters struggle was finally getting the national attention it deserves. The pepper spray torture tactics used on nine activists since last fall by the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department and Eureka Police have spurred a media explosion and timely debate on civil disobedience and the First Amendment. Our job is to use this controversy to remind the public that this is what happens when you stand directly in the line of fire, and to expose the brutal violence of MAXXAM'S agenda. (MAXXAM is the corporate owner of the formerly locally-owned Pacific Lumber.) This dramatic story has effectively parted the redwood curtain, at least for a moment, and it's those political moments that continuously shock people out of their daily grind, and compel them to speak out.

For twelve years, Ecotopian activists have been standing in the way of corporate profits, harming no person or property. In the past two years, with the rise in numbers and frequency of folks getting arrested, local authorities have ordered an escalation in aggressive maneuvers designed to intimidate people from taking nonviolent action.

For the past few years, thousands of citizens descended on the timber community of Carlotta, CA in mid-September to protest "open season" on marbled murrelets, and show support for preservation of the ancient redwoods of

Headwaters Forest. Local and State Police cooperated in choreographed nonviolent civil disobedience actions at the main gate to the complex, and arrest numbers grew exponentially from 1995 to 1996.

FALL 1997 ACTIONS

On September 14, 1997, Headwaters supporters who showed up at our rally site in Stafford found a dramatically different situation. The authorities were out in full force, flaunting riot gear and "chemical agents". Not only were they intent on sabotaging our efforts to sponsor a smooth, well-planned, nonviolent civil

disobedience action, they put on a tremendous show of force they hoped would intimidate supporters from even participating, issuing threats of felony assault charges, police lines, and road closures.

On the day of the rally, with 6000 people gathered to

support the ancient forest, we changed our tactic from civil disobedience to an expression of mutual aid and cooperation by sandbagging Stafford resident Mike O'Neill's property. Mike's home was barely missed by a debris torrent from a Pacific Lumber (PL) clearcut last winter that destroyed seven other Stafford homes. Our direct action was a gesture of solidarity, illuminating PL/MAXXAM'S disregard for the lives and homes of longtime Humboldt residents living in the shadows of MAXXAM's cut and run economic practices.

After the rally, we transformed the site into basecamp, and dove right into action. On Monday, September 15th, 200 folks marched from the California Department of Forestry (CDF) offices in Fortuna to the Newburg Road gate at the main Headwaters Grove, where fifteen women held a line across the gate, and 40 woods elves hiked up around the gate to the road above. After removing activists from the road above by using pain compliance holds, the police focused on the crowd which was peacefully assembling, declaring us an illegal assembly and ordering us to disperse by threatening the use of chemical agents. When the police line charged us, most of us moved, but a handful of rallyers at the back of the crowd were tackled, including a videographer and a lawyer. Over 40 arrests were made that day, many of whom were caught far up the Pacific Lumber road. Meanwhile, at least 12 activists visited the main grove.

PEPPER SPRAY INCIDENTS

On September 25, seven activists boldly locked down in a circular "lockpod" in the lobby of Pacific Lumber's Scotia headquarters — an action that would later be televised around the country. A street theater "trial" of Hurwitz, complete with testimonies from forest critters and loggers, and a unanimous guilty verdict from the jury, kept spirits high out in front of the office. Inside, spirits were not so high. In what has become typical "Hurwitz County" fashion, the cops applied pepper spray to the activists' eyelids with cotton swabs. Three activists complied and unlocked,



For the past several years, 5-7000 people have rallied near Carlotta, CA in mid-September, in defense of Headwaters Forest and in protest of the beginning of logging season. In 1996, over 1000 protesters were arrested in a mass civil disobedience action. In 1997, activists helped sandbag land behind houses in Stafford, CA, where landslides below clearcut areas have destroyed eight homes. Photo of 1996 march by Karen Pickett, Earth First!

First! Headwaters Actions



while two pairs of two withheld the agonizing tactic, and were eventually carried out of the building on stretchers, still locked together.

Weeks later, when activists locked down around a stump in Congressman Frank Riggs' Eureka office, Eureka police and Humboldt Sheriffs were on the scene immediately. Within minutes, they were pepper swabbing the four activists, pulling

their eyelids open for a more painful effect, and police yanked Terri Compost's head back and sprayed the irritant directly into one eye. Although we immediately alerted media and the public to this abuse of power, the significance of these three incidents wasn't completely felt until weeks later, when a civil lawsuit was filed in Federal court in San Francisco, and the graphic footage, videotaped by the cops

was released to the media.

LOGGING ON HEADWATERS PERIPHERY

MAXXAM'S Pacific Lumber never began salvage logging operations in the ancient groves this fall. Instead, they logged outside the 60,000 acre Headwaters

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Tree Sitters Make Home Atop Ancient Redwoods

In one of the most personal, hands-on direct actions in the Headwaters campaign, activists have established "tree sits" high in the branches of endangered thousand-year old redwoods.

One of the most dramatic tree-sits is that in the 200-foot-tall tree known as "Luna." Luna, 16 feet in diameter, stands on a ridgetop overlooking the tiny Northern California town of Stafford, next to a massive mudslide that destroyed eight homes last year after MAXXAM/Pacific Lumber clearcut the slopes above.

As GroundWork goes to press, the Luna tree sit has gone on for over 150 days. For over eighty of those days, tree sitter Julia Butterfly has occupied a six-by-eight platform rigged with tarps and supplies, linking her life to that of the ancient redwood.

Luna sits outside of Headwaters Forest, but is being defended because of the threat of further mudslides to local residents, its value as a wildlife tree, its spectacular beauty, and its spiritual draw. When

logging began in fall 1997, Luna was marked for cutting. Earth First! initiated the tree sit on October 5th, and Julia Butterfly began her stint in the branches

of Luna on December 10th.

Julia has survived threats from both MAXXAM and El Niño. In December, trees were felled dangerously close to her, and helicopters swung suspended logs past her platform. Winter storms have brought 60mph winds and heavy rains. When that failed to dislodge her, MAXXAM ordered 24-hour security and the use of searchlights and foghorns to disrupt her sleep.

Then MAXXAM vowed to "starve her out," but a band of twenty Earth First!ers hiked to the tree and nonviolently broke the blockade and resupplied Julia. Two days later, MAXXAM security gave up and left.

A native of Arkansas, Julia says that she is moved by a spiritual calling to protect the ancient trees. "This tree is my home for now, and I have chosen to share her fate. Luna and other trees like her are all that is holding up this hillside. Luna represents the fate of all ancient forest left in MAXXAM's holdings doomed for the chainsaw."

Reflecting on her long stay atop Luna, Julia said, "Two and a half months may seem like a long time to us humans, but it's a blip in the life of an ancient redwood."

To support Julia and other tree sitters, contact Ecotopia News, (707) 445-3344, or the Trees Foundation, (707) 923-4377.



Luna, a thousand year old redwood adjacent to Headwaters Forest, has been home to Earth First! tree sitters since last October. Photo courtesy of Ecotopia News Service.



Human Rights at Home:

BY MARY MERRIMAN

When I first did prison work in college in the late 1970s, I remember clearly my intense feelings of despair and hopelessness from witnessing the degradation and ruined lives of the inmates and the failure of the state to implement effective alternative programs. I also felt alienated by the intense fear and denial of my fellow citizens, who did not want to see the prison population as people in any way like themselves.

Recently, I have met many wonderful, dedicated people of all colors and sexualities involved in prison activism in the 1990's. Yet I am sad to say that I see *almost no* beneficial changes since the 1970s. The number of prisons and incarcerated human beings have doubled while social services, jobs, and

housing disappear. The government's response to problems is to lock people away while eliminating the means for any kind of education, health care, employment, or self determination. This article is an attempt to make public some of the facts about prisons, their effects on society, and what you can do about them.

Prisons have existed in various societies for centuries. In the United States today, the institutions of racism, classism, and sexism are alive and well, and more often than not determine who is incarcerated. African Americans are the largest ethnic group imprisoned in the country. A fact sheet published by Prison Activist Resource Center (PARC) of Berkeley, California states, "One out of three African American men in the U.S. will go to prison in their lifetimes..." and "...the U.S. currently cages more people of color per capita than any other nation."

Other ethnic groups are also traumatically affected. Latinos are jailed at roughly double their proportion in the population, and Native Americans are imprisoned at a vastly disproportionate rate. It is also common for people of color to receive longer sentences than Caucasians for the same offense.

These issues of class and economic discrimination are also part of the prison situation. Those who have money and the right connections will probably get away with or even be unnoticed doing activities that a poor person will be incarcerated for.

Alexander C. Lichtenstein and Michael A Kroll also point out in their essay, "The Fortress Economy," that "Society's losses from white collar crime far exceed the economic impact of all burglaries, robberies, larcenies, and auto thefts combined."

WOMEN IN PRISON

The issues of women in prison are clouded with sensational stereotypes and silence. Women are the fastest growing sector of the prison population in the United States. Even more than men, most women are incarcerated for non-violent offenses. These women are often products of sexist and racist attitudes, and do not have marketable job skills. Economic survival for herself and her family often means prostitution, forging, petty theft or some kind of hustle. Once incarcerated, women have less access to education, job training programs, and other services than men. When released, women are more often shamed for having done time, and less likely to reach out for support.

Other ways women inmates are different from men are the impact of family and health issues. Many women are single mothers whose children are sent to foster care. Because state foster care is generally grossly inadequate at providing stable, nurturing environments for traumatized children, these children often become the next generation of prison inmates. Being separated from their children and worrying about them becomes an especially painful effect of

CRIMINAL INJUSTICE CONFRONTING THE PRISON CRISIS

EDITED BY ELIHU ROSENBLATT

This remarkable anthology exposes our increasingly conservative and punitive state, and uncovers the economic and political realities behind the imprisonment of astounding numbers of the working class, working poor, and people of color.

"Criminal Injustice, which explores the connections between imprisonment, racism, class domination, misogyny, and homophobia, offers us invaluable information and compelling arguments for placing prison issues on the agenda of every progressive organization."

— Angela Davis, author of *Women, Race & Class*



Activists Support the Imprisoned

incarceration for women inmates.

Health care for all prisoners is substandard. However, women face the double stigma of being ignored and considered complainers, as well as the deliberate neglect by the prison system. Women are often incarcerated during pregnancy or

right after birth, with no pre- or post-natal care.

Women incarcerated with illnesses like lupus, cancer, and AIDS receive almost no treatment.

Over the last decade women inmates have brought law suits against the state for overtly neglectful, abusive, or

incorrect care. A Connecticut suit cited a woman forced to deliver twin babies with her legs shackled together. The children died.

Two California institutions have also been accused in a class action lawsuit of denying essential medical care to women with cancer, sickle cell anemia, AIDS, and other life threatening conditions. Some women have died.

EXPLODING PRISON POPULATION

While social services are disappearing in this country, the number of prisons and incarcerated people have exploded. In her essay, "Women Prisoners and Health Care: Locked Up and Locked Out," Ellen Berry states, "At the end of 1994, almost 95,000 women were incarcerated... an increase of over 275% as compared with an increase of 160% of male prisoners... between 1980 and 1992. At the same time, substance abuse treatment programs are closed, basic survival programs like Aid to Families with Dependent Children are cut, and counseling programs for abused children

are closed due to lack of funds.

By 1995, 150 new prisons had been built in the United States, and a national "crime bill" was passed, mandating that 100,000 additional police officers be added. In California, 1995 saw the state budget allocate more money for prisons

and expenses for criminal 'justice' have increased six-fold."

It has been common knowledge for decades that it costs more to send a person to prison than to college. There are cheaper and more socially beneficial alternatives, including drug treatment programs, family counseling programs, and community service.

WHAT WE CAN DO

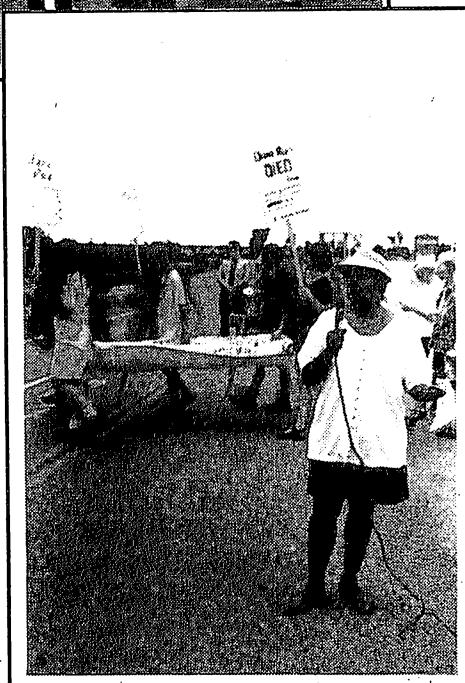
People can start tackling this problem by educating themselves about the growth of prisons and related issues. Prisons and the criminal injustice system are reflections of the condition of society at large. As well as prisons, the machinery of repression outside has boomed. Mushrooming

numbers of police, weapons, and electronic surveillance devices do not make us feel safer. Thinking about the kind of society we do not want to be is an essential part of anti-prison public outreach.

Around major cities, prisoner advocacy organizations are happy to go to forums and benefit concerts with speakers and literature. For example, Amnesty International is a highly respected organization which has repeatedly condemned conditions in U.S. prisons. Among religious groups, the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) has been active around prison issues.

Some people have organized meetings and study groups in their homes. Letter writing campaigns around a specific issue — the abuse of a particular inmate, a political person wrongfully caged, — can be an effective means of expressing our outrage at our

continued on page 46



than for higher education. A key piece of this puzzle is that politicians prey on people's fear of crime. But statistics repeatedly prove

that increased incarceration has little effect on crime. A fact sheet distributed by the PARC states: "Contrary to what the government and mass media lead one to believe, sources... confirm that there has been no increase in the crime rate. Yet the imprisonment rate has more than tripled



To Live with Grace and Dignity

YEARS AGO, I SHARED AN OFFICE with a man who was a quadriplegic. We were both newly-appointed college professors, and it would be years before we reached that exalted position which would entitle us to individual offices. In the meantime, we were working together every day.

Between teaching our classes and seeing students, there would be time for conversation, time enough to get to know a great deal about each other. We talked about ourselves and the important people in our daily lives. In my case, it was mostly my husband and children. In his case, it was his live-in attendants.

His attendants came and went from year to year, which meant periods of uncertainty, adjusting to new characters and their idiosyncracies. I realized that just as I was a wife and mother, he too played a particular role in his attendants' lives. He was not only their employer and the recipient of their services, he was to each of them a brother or father or mentor or teacher, possibly even lover, giving his energy to fill some of their emotional needs.

photos and text c. 1994 by Lydia Gans



CANY YEARS LATER, when I moved from the academic world into photography, I decided to try to capture the special relationship between attendants and their disabled employers on film.

By then, I had moved to Berkeley, birthplace of all sorts of movements, from the raucous Free Speech Movement of the Sixties to the more quiet but determined Independent Living Movement. That movement has brought curb cuts at every corner, wheelchair-accessible public transportation (not always in working order), ramps built onto many houses and public buildings, and a variety of public services for people with disabilities, so that individuals rolling around in wheelchairs have become a common sight throughout the area.

My photographs of attendants working with their employers were well received in the disabled community, and even more gratifying was the interest people showed in participating in the project. Even though it meant allowing me and my camera into their bedrooms and bathrooms during their personal care, almost no one objected. Certainly part of the reason for the enthusiastic support was the fact that obtaining adequate attendant services is a pervasive problem and has become a primary focus of political action for Independent Living activists.



THE PEOPLE IN THESE PICTURES are extraordinary. The disabled individuals have made the choice to move out of institutions where their physical needs are automatically taken care of. This is an enormously difficult step, and requires a great deal of trust in others and a willingness to take more than ordinary risks.

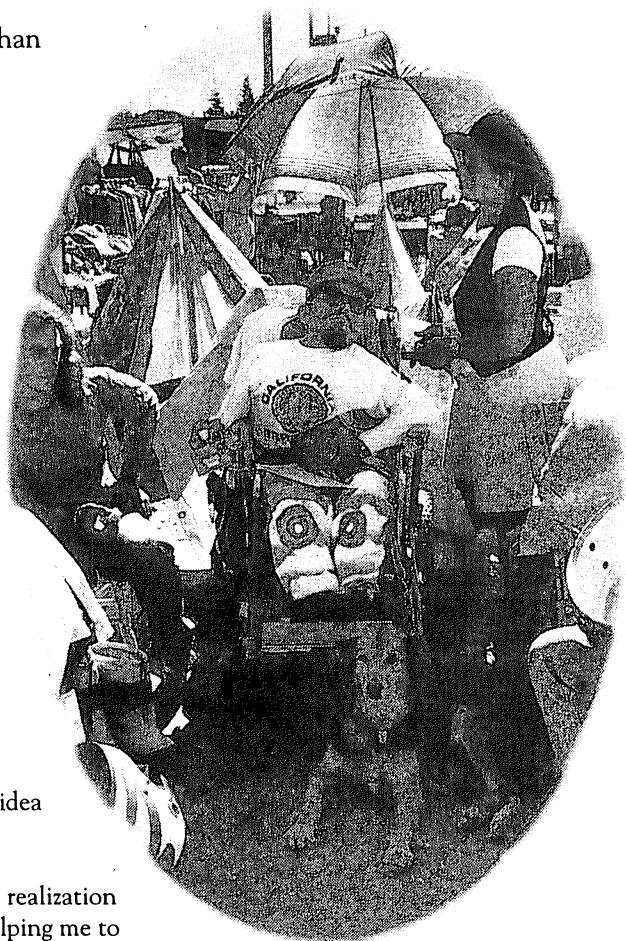
The attendants probably have in common certain characteristics that enable them to do this work, but are otherwise a diverse group. There are those for whom this is temporary, who enjoy having a close relationship with another person and who have the patience and sensitivity to do the job well. There are others for whom this work is akin to a calling, who in other periods of history might have gone into service with some religious order.

A documentary photographer steps briefly into people's lives and often takes away much more than he or she gives back. I feel that way about this project. I have told a story that needs to be told, and given my subjects some pictures of themselves for their albums or their families. They have given me their trust and friendship, lessons in good sense and courage, a lot of laughs, and a few tears.

I found in the people you will read about in this book qualities which for many of us are hard to attain and yet essential for survival: patience, a sense of responsibility, the willingness to speak openly and honestly about one's needs and feelings. The individuals with disabilities have an ability to tread lightly through life, being comfortable with themselves and in touch with the world around them. The attendants are committed to a job which engages the body, the brain and the heart.

One young woman read to me from her journal, in which she recorded her experiences as an attendant. She wrote that she had been "reflecting on the idea of being paralyzed. And how I was working with Liane to help her move her limbs, and move her body and exercise, and just move in a physical way, and thinking, that's my job, to help her move. And all of a sudden coming to the realization that in that whole process all the ways that I was paralyzed and Liane was helping me to move."

I hope that these pictures and stories will help other people to move.



To Live with Grace and Dignity

by Lydia Gans

"To Live with Grace and Dignity" is an outstanding book containing over fifty photos, as well as stories of people living with disabilities and their attendants. Published by LRP Publications, 747 Dresher Road, PO Box 980, Horsham, PA 19044-0980. In Berkeley, it is available at Cody's books.

You can contact the Center for Independent Living, which helps coordinate attendant care for disabled people in Berkeley and the wider Bay Area, at (510) 841-4776.



Hundreds Protest Nukes in Space

27 Arrested at Florida Cassini Demonstration

Cassini — a Bad Seed

BY BRUCE K. GAGNON, COORDINATOR, FLORIDA COALITION FOR PEACE & JUSTICE

Between now and 2009, NASA plans to launch many more plutonium missions, including two nuclear reactors for mining colonies on Mars in 2007. As more nuclear payloads are launched, the odds of a catastrophic accident increase.

NASA and the nuclear industry view space as a new market. "Untold riches" await mining colonies on the Moon, Mars and asteroids. The U.S. Space Command document "Vision for 2020," states that "Robust capabilities to ensure space superiority must be developed."

The arms race is moving into space. The industry publication "Space News" reported in May 1997, that an anti-satellite (ASAT) weapon was tested.

A key to accomplishing U.S. Space Command's goal to control space is nuclear power. An Air Force document entitled "New World Vistas: Air and Space Power in the 21st Century," spells it out clearly: "A natural technology to enable high power is nuclear power in space... Setting the emotional issues of nuclear power aside, this technology offers a viable alternative for large amounts of power in space."

Missions like Cassini are icebreakers, keeping U.S. nuclear laboratories such as Los Alamos, Savannah River, and Oak Ridge working (*see theme section*). These nuclear-powered deepspace probe missions get Congress, the public, and the media accustomed to the use of nuclear power in space.

Help us stop the nuclearization and weaponization of space. Contact the Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice, (352) 468-3295, www.afn.org/~fcpj

On October 4, 1997, about 800 protesters pushed against the metal fence of Cape Canaveral Air Station in opposition to NASA's nuclear-powered Cassini mission to Saturn.

The peaceful, four-hour demonstration, sponsored by the Florida

aboard a Titan rocket.

The \$3.3 billion Cassini project will use 72 pounds of radioactive plutonium to generate electricity for the probe's science instruments during a four-year study of Saturn, its rings and moons.

Critics worry the cancer-causing material could have been released in accidents during the launch, or again in 1999, when the spacecraft flies by Earth to gain momentum for the journey to Saturn.

"I feel like we're playing Russian roulette with the Earth and our families and our children," Ohio resident Becky Sinnett told *Florida Today*. "We're only human, and we all

make mistakes."

Protesters also contend that Cassini will make it easier for the Pentagon to use nuclear power on future space-based weapons.

"We've done what we wanted to do. We've broken the sound barrier, so to speak," said Bruce Gagnon, coordinator of the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice. "People are talking about it now,

continued on page 46



Coalition for Peace and Justice, ended with 27 people arrested for committing civil disobedience.

"We've done everything that we could legally," Peg McIntire of St. Augustine told *Florida Today*. "We've petitioned, we've stood outside these gates with signs, we've gone door-to-door. There's nothing left to do now but go over that fence."

The demonstration and civil disobedience were the final event in a series of protests held at the base, where Cassini was launched October 13

PHOTOS

top: 800 people marched to the gates of Cape Canaveral to protest the Cassini launch

right: the crowd masses around the gate as demonstrators climb over the fence and face arrest

photos courtesy of Johnny Ardis/Florida Green Party





Holding Ground on Dudley Street

The Rebirth of a Boston Neighborhood

OPEN THE NEWSPAPER, turn on the TV news, or tune into the talk shows, and you will be fed a daily dose of reports on crime, drugs, decay and despair in urban America. Our cities, the media strongly imply, are places that lost their way long ago, that are only getting worse, and that have lost all hope.

Thankfully, there is another story, a story of committed residents uniting, fighting and succeeding in their efforts to improve their neighborhoods, to recapture the places that they call home.

One such story has unfolded in Boston, where an ethnically diverse neighborhood group formed during the 1980s, in the aftermath of decades of government neglect and disinvestment.

The challenge for residents of the Dudley Street area was not a simple one: The once vibrant Roxbury-Dorchester community had been largely abandoned and red-lined. Arson had destroyed many of its homes, and trash had been dumped illegally on many of its 1300 vacant lots.

Residents, faced with these daunting obstacles, took matters into their own hands. The Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI) took root when a well-meaning grant-making foundation stepped in and tried to structure a solution without the input of residents. Local people responded by forming DSNI, run by community residents and representatives of local organizations, businesses and religious organizations. From the mid-1980s to the present, DSNI has managed to stop illegal dumping, assume control of long-vacant lots, and oversee the construction of new housing.

DSNI Director Greg Watson explains: "When local residents sat down in 1987 to come up with a plan to revitalize their community, they envisioned an urban village. Today, we're still working toward that vision of a vibrant place where people live, shop, work, socialize and play. We imagine a day when our streets are lined with small businesses and institutions that celebrate the unique cultures of the

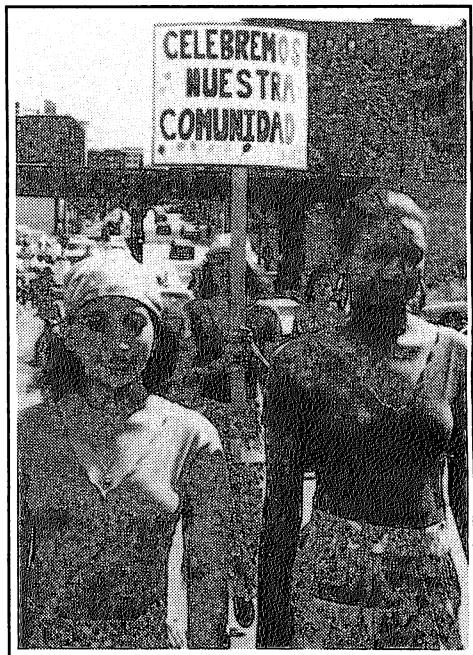
Cape Verdean, Latino, African-American and European communities here."

STRIKING BOOK AND VIDEO DOCUMENT DUDLEY STREET STORY

The stirring story of the rebuilding of Dudley Street has been captured in both print and video.

"*Streets of Hope: The Fall and Rise of an Urban Neighborhood*," by Holly Sklar and Peter Medoff, chronicles the story of the Dudley Street neighborhood.

The 1997 video, "Holding Ground: The Rebirth of Roxbury's Dudley Street Neighborhood," is an inspiring and informative video showing how the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative turned a community around through grassroots organizing and planning. "Holding Ground" aired on PBS stations across the country in 1997, and is



available in video-cassette form.

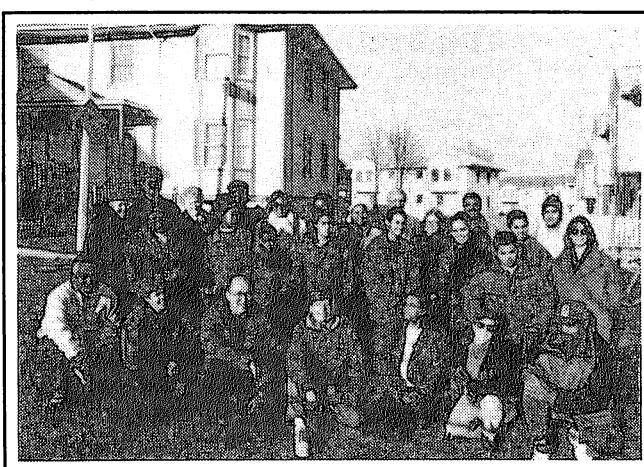
The message of "Holding Ground" is that local community voices belong at the forefront of any community-building effort. Film-makers Leah Mahan and Mark Lipman produced this work not only to document one successful campaign, but to inspire others across the country.

"*Streets of Hope: The Fall and Rise of an Urban Neighborhood*," the 1994 book by Holly Sklar and Peter Medoff, is available from South End Press, 7 Brookline Street #1, Cambridge, MA 02139.

For the 1997 video, "Holding Ground: The Rebirth of Roxbury's Dudley Street Neighborhood," contact T & T Public Relations, 1020 Grand Concourse, Suite 16C, Bronx, NY 10451.

Contact the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative at (617) 442-9670.

Photos courtesy of Holding Ground.





Greenaction: For Health & Environmental Justice

New group targets environmental racism

GREENACTION IS A NEW ORGANIZATION created by community groups and former Greenpeace staff who have joined together in the struggle for health and environmental justice for all.

Greenaction is being launched by California Communities Against Toxics (CCAT), an alliance of community groups formed in 1989 to fight toxic and nuclear threats and contamination.

Greenaction asserts that everyone has the right to clean water and clean air, and to have a say about whether or not we want to be exposed to toxic pollution in our communities and workplaces. Toxic and radioactive pollution affects everyone,

rich and poor, urban and rural. Environmental justice and a healthy future are everyone's right.

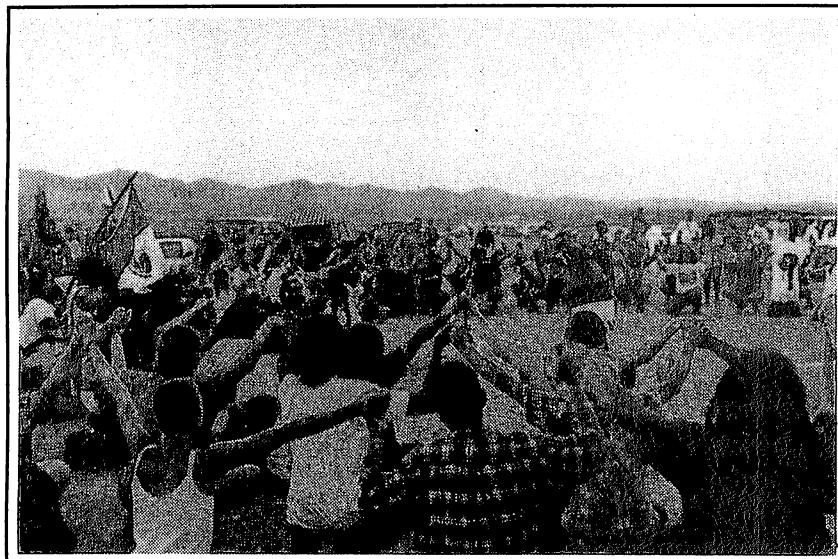
GREENACTION'S GOALS INCLUDE:

- to engage in action-oriented campaigns for health and environmental justice.
- to hold corporate polluters and government agencies and officials accountable on issues of health and environmental justice.
- to take direct action against corporate polluters and other destroyers of the environment.
- to work for pollution prevention and non-toxic alternatives.

- to help empower communities through sharing of skills, experience and networks.
- to provide information, technical assistance, media and organizing trainings.
- to engage in public education campaigns.
- to support the Principles of Environmental Justice and oppose environmental racism.

GREENACTION CAMPAIGNS

- **Save Ward Valley and the Colorado River from a radioactive waste dump** (see page 18).
- **Zero Dioxin Exposure Campaign:** We are organizing with community and health alliances to stop dioxin emissions from polluters, including medical waste and garbage incinerators.
- **Healthy and Toxic-Free Communities:** We provide organizing and technical assistance to contaminated communities attempting to get dangerous toxic sites and chemical plants cleaned up, and dumps and incinerators shut down.
- **Timbisha Shoshone Justice Campaign:** We actively support the Timbisha Shoshone Indian Tribe's efforts to stop cyanide heap-leach gold mining in the Panamint Mountains near Death Valley and to win their homeland.
- **Stop Cancer Where It Starts:** We work with women's health groups, cancer survivors and people living near polluters to make the link between pollution and cancer and other illnesses. We can stop the cancer epidemic by stopping pollution where it starts.



Among Greenaction's campaigns is support for the struggle of the Colorado River Indian Nations to stop a nuclear dump at Ward Valley, California — see page 18 for more information. Here, Indigenous dancers perform for protesters at a 1997 gathering. Photo by Zachary Singer.

GREENACTION'S ADVISORY BOARD INCLUDES:

- Executive Director Bradley Angel, former Greenpeace toxics campaigner
- Juana Gutierrez, Madres de Este de Los Angeles, Santa Isabel
- Jane Williams, California Communities Against Toxics
- Steve Lopez, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe and Colorado River Indian Nations Alliance
- Alfredo Figueroa, Escuela de la Raza
- Judy Brady, Women's Cancer Resource Center
- Rahman Shabazz, Community Coalition for Change
- Henry Clark, West County Toxics Coalition
- Don Brown, Labor environmental justice organizer
- Mary Lou Mares, El Pueblo Para el Aire y Agua Limpio

You can become a founding supporter of Greenaction and help with this critical work by sending a tax deductible donation of \$25, \$50, \$100, or whatever amount you can afford, to Greenaction/CCAT, 915 Cole Street, Box 249, San Francisco, CA 94117, (415) 566-3475



Snapshots from the Philippines

An overview of cultural organizing in three provinces

BY CATHERINE FARGHES

Last summer, I travelled to the Philippines as part of a professional development grant from the Community Cultural Development Board of the Australian Arts Council. In Australia I work as a writer and facilitator with youth, workers and migrant and refugee communities. The trip to the Philippines was a chance to meet other cultural workers in similar fields. In the Philippines I was hosted by the cultural arm of the KMU (Kilusang Mayo Uno — May Day Organisation) — a national organization which promotes genuine trade unionism, and militant action throughout the Philippines. They coordinated a tour to three provinces — Luzon (Manila), Negros and Mindanao (Davao). I'll give a brief description of cultural campaigns that were being developed in each province to further the struggles of organizers, workers and in Mindanao, Indigenous peoples (Lumad).

How you can help

Tambisan and Teatro Obrero welcome support from like-minded organisations.

Tambisan Sa Sining (attn: Marize Fabella)
c/o KMU, Rm 301, Philippines Herald Building
60-69 Muralla St
IntraMuros, Manila, Philippines
ph/fax (632) 994036

Teatro Obrero
c/o Bundo Deoma
#16 Burgos St, Bacolod City
Negros Occidental 6100, Philippines
ph (63-34-26440) (63-34-4330479)

Kaliwat Theatre Collective
8 Mercury St
GSTS Matina, Davao City, Philippines
ph (82) 8-11-06, fax (82) 298-19-73
email: kpacmin@dv.weblinq.com

MANILA

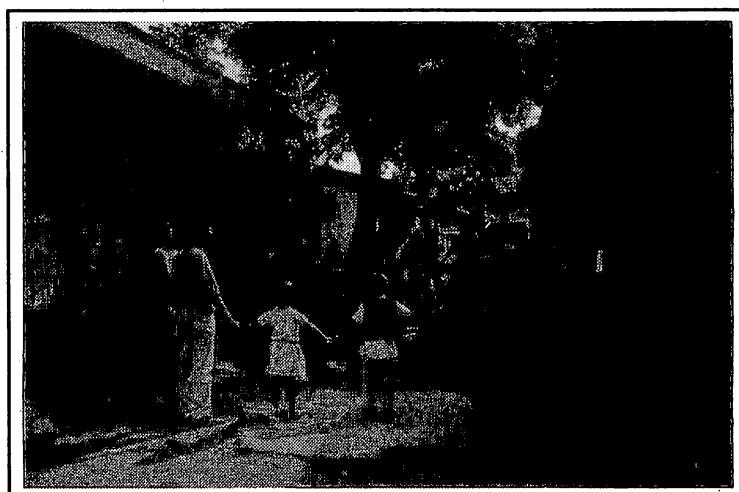
Tambisan Sa Sining is the name of the cultural arm of the KMU. They have a national and international scope, but work largely in Manila, with very few resources. They've been in existence for about fifteen years, and many members have been in the group for 8 - 10 years. All workers are unpaid, but have some travel allowances. Some funding comes from overseas sources. They have set up 8-10 cultural groups in factories throughout Manila, ranging from "Century Tuna" to the "Pasvil" Bus company picketline and run a range of cultural and educational programs. They aim to develop self sufficient cultural

groups, who can then go and organize cultural groups in other factories. The basis of their practice is Maoist, and they plan all their activities with the long term aim of strengthening the class struggle through developing cultural representations and songs which reflect these aims.

While I was there we ran a training workshop with workers from PLDT (Philippines Long Distance Telephone company), Mead Johnson (baby food company) and Magnolia Icecream factories — developing alliances and skills among the union members and teaching writing facilitation skills. The group is aiming to record their workers' songs, and need about \$10,000 (U.S.) to do that. (See sidebar for donation requests and addresses.)

NEGROS

While in Negros I was hosted by Teatro Obrero, another group affiliated with the KMU and also the NFSW (National Federation of Sugar Workers). This group was founded by members of a radical church organization, working out of an old seminary. Most of their work is with the young people in sugar working communities, helping to support and develop trade unions in the haciendas. If



Workshop in Negros, The Phillipines, with sugar workers. Photo by C.F.

there isn't a union, they organize one, then start the cultural work! We ran theater workshops at a remote hacienda near Victorias (outside Bacolod). A highlight was showing a video about the sugar workers struggle, made with local actors. All eyes in the village were glued to one TV set in the local square. Teatro Obrero aims to do more direct video work with the community, but to do this they need cameras... any offers?

MINDANAO

Mindanao is home to many Indigenous groups and also Moro (Muslim) groups. They face the threat of increased mining activity following the 1995 Mining Act. Indigenous peoples are being "consulted" with an aim to move them from their

continued on page 46



Shell Games....

Local Direct Action Campaigns Pressure Nigeria, Shell Oil

BY SHANNA LANGDON,
PROJECT UNDERGROUND

On January 23, 1998, more than fifty people, including Nigerian Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka; former New York City Mayor David N. Dinkins; former U.N. Ambassador to Nigeria Walter Carrington; and civil rights leader Reverend Wyatt Tee Walker gathered in the freezing rain on the corner of 44th Street and Second Avenue in New York City to unveil a street sign bearing the name of murdered Nigerian human rights activist Kudirat Abiola. A ten-month long campaign by the Africa Fund and United Committee to Save Nigeria culminated in the New York City council voting to change the name of the corner opposite the Nigerian Mission to the U.N. to honor Kudirat Abiola, wife of elected but imprisoned Nigerian President Moshood Abiola.

The Nigerian dictatorship reacted immediately. To get its own back it considered renaming the corner opposite the American embassy in Nigeria. The names it considered? Malcolm X, Muammar Ghaddafi, or Timothy McVeigh Corner.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PROJECT UNDERGROUND

This page — One of the regular monthly demonstrations sponsored by Project Underground in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Opposite page, top — November 10, 1996 demonstration (anniversary of the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other Nigerian dissidents) in San Francisco.

Opposite page, lower — November 10, 1997 demonstration in downtown San Francisco outside the Shell Building at "Shell Corner," which activists want renamed "Ken Saro-Wiwa Corner."

The success of the New York-based groups is just one on a growing list that stretches across the United States. From California to Missouri, grassroots groups are continuing to put pressure on the brutal Nigerian regime and the

and to pressure the regime into moving towards democracy.

Selective Purchasing Laws allow cities and counties to stop trading with a country or any companies doing business in that country. This means that the

county of Alameda, for example, which covers 15 cities including Oakland and Berkeley in California, cannot use Coca-Cola in its vending machines, Shell oil in its vehicles, or Chevron credit cards. These laws are not just symbolic: when a county like Alameda votes to pass such a legislation, the lost revenue for those companies affected is significant.

In the case of Nigeria, the companies that are hardest hit by these laws are oil companies, and in particular, Shell. It is Shell that has devastated the Ogoni people's homeland and it was Shell that Ken Saro-Wiwa declared "persona non-grata in Ogoni" on January 4, 1993. That date marked the first Ogoni Day on which 300,000 people turned out to protest Shell's operations. Shell provides almost half of the regime's total income, and it is clear that the dictatorship could not survive without that revenue.

multinational corporations that support it. The state of Maryland is currently considering a bill that would require any company doing business with the state to certify that they are not invested in Nigeria. The state's pension funds would also be affected.

On November 10, 1995, Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogoni activists were hanged in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. The executions ended a 17 month stay in police custody, which followed a trial that was universally condemned as a fraud. Their crimes? Asking for the protection of their basic human rights, voicing their right to self-determination, and exposing the Shell Petroleum Development Company's role in destroying their homeland, dismantling their communities and killing their people.

Today grassroots groups in the United States are using laws called Selective Purchasing Laws as a tool in their fight to force companies to pull out of Nigeria,





PROJECT UNDERGROUND ORGANIZES GRASSROOTS OPPOSITION TO SHELL OIL

A new organization in Berkeley is one of those working in local grassroots coalitions around this issue. Project Underground was set up in July 1996 specifically to work with and in support of communities that are threatened by the oil and mining industries throughout the world. Our two main campaigns are around Shell in Nigeria and Freeport McMoRan, a Louisiana-based mining company that operates the world's biggest gold mine in Irian Jaya, Indonesia. Project Underground's Shell campaign combines advocacy, research, and active campaigning to educate people about the plight of the Ogoni in Nigeria, and to put pressure on Shell.

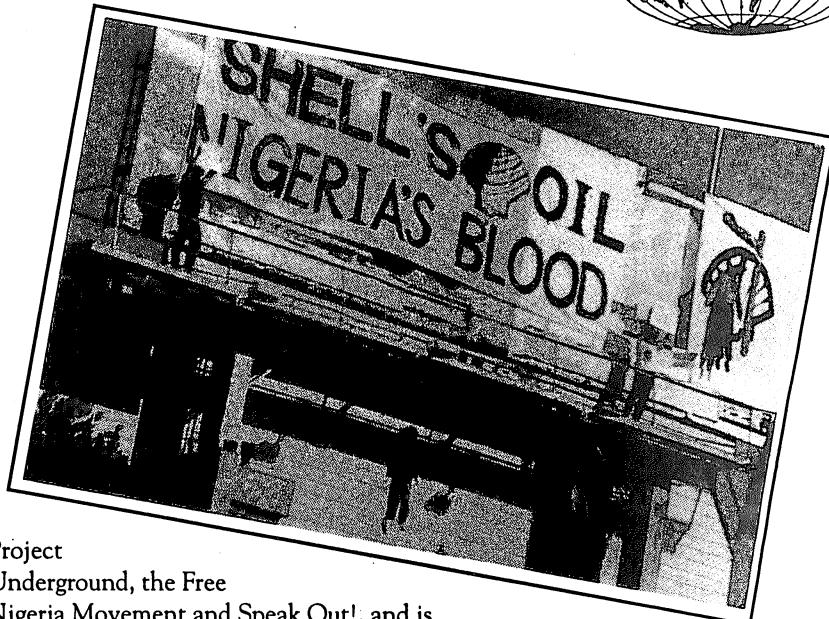
In the San Francisco Bay Area, Project Underground is working as part of the Committee in Support of the People of Nigeria (CISPON) to pass Selective Purchasing laws throughout the region. So far Berkeley, Oakland and Alameda County have all passed the legislation against Nigeria. CISPON is a group of individuals and organizations including

Project Underground, the Free Nigeria Movement and Speak Out!, and is a community solidarity group organizing for economic, political, and social justice for all people in Nigeria. Through educational forums, street protests, consumer boycotts, as well as through local and regional government lobbying, CISPON supports democratic change in Nigeria.

CISPON is currently working to get the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to honor the memory of those fighting for their rights in Nigeria by changing the name of Shell Corner to Ken Saro-Wiwa Corner. Outside Shell's old US headquarters, the Shell Building, "Shell Corner" is embossed in bronze on the corners of Battery and Bush streets in downtown San Francisco. On November 10, 1997, the Committee organized a demonstration which pulled over 100 people to the corner, and has so far received hundreds of signatures petitioning the city to change the name of the corner.

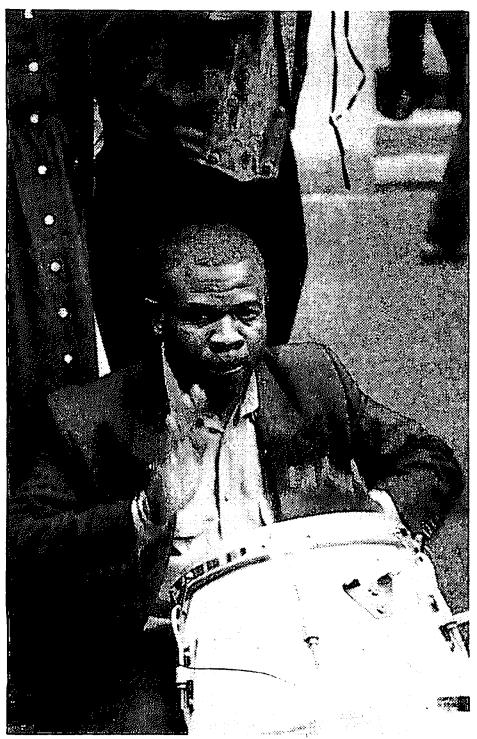
WHAT YOU CAN DO

To get involved in the campaign against Shell you can start to organize demonstrations at Shell stations and/or begin the process to get your city or county to stop trading with Nigeria and any companies doing business in Nigeria. We can provide you with a Shell



boycott pack, posters, postcards and factsheets so that you can start to organize in your community.

Visit Project Underground's website at: www.moles.org or email us: project_underground@moles.org. Check out CISPON's new website at: www.bernards.net/cispion and email them: cispion@yahoo.com. For more information on either group, call (510) 705-8981 or write to 1847 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94703.



Panamanian, Puerto Rican Speakers Tour U.S. Cities

The Fellowship of Reconciliation's Task Force on Latin America and the Caribbean/Panama campaign is hosting speakers from Panama and Puerto Rico on a speaking tour of six U.S. cities in April and May 1998. The guest speakers are involved in popular education efforts in their countries and oppose U.S. military presence there. The speakers will give presentations on their work, and exchange ideas, experiences and strategies with U.S. activists.

The tour includes Tucson, St. Louis, Madison, Washington DC, New York City, and Brattleboro.

For more information, contact Sarah, (415) 495-6334, forlatam@igc.org.

CONFERENCES AND CALLS TO ACTION

The Multilateral Agreement on Investment — NAFTA on Steroids

BY BILL AAL, GLOBAL ECONOMY WORKING GROUP, SEATTLE

The Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) is designed to make it easier for individual and corporate investors to move assets — whether money or production facilities — across international borders. The MAI would take the investment provisions of the NAFTA, amplify these provisions, and apply them around the world. It is a profoundly anti-democratic treaty, which will sweep away many of the traditional rights of self-determination from cities, states and nations.

Secret negotiations have been underway since May 1995 within the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and are now scheduled to be completed by May 1998. The MAI will then be presented to the U.S. and the other OECD countries for signature. Developing nations will also be encouraged to join by threat of being left behind in the scramble for ever-scarcer investment dollars. Countries that sign the MAI agree to:

1. Open all economic sectors to foreign ownership;
2. Remove laws that require investors to behave responsibly in exchange for market access;
3. Remove restrictions on the movement of capital;
4. Compensate investors in full when their assets are taken, either through seizure or "unreasonable" regulation;
5. Allows investors to sue governments for damages before international panels of "experts" when they believe a country's laws are in violation of MAI rules; and
6. Ensure that states and localities comply with the MAI.

The proposed agreement will accelerate an economic and environmental "race to the bottom" as countries compete for increasingly mobile

investment capital by lowering wages and environmental safeguards. The MAI will allow investors to destroy legitimate regulatory safeguards seen as blocks to the free flow of capital.

We need to organize as much opposition as possible at local state and national levels this spring. It is a good opportunity to call for local control over our economy and environment.

There is substantial opposition to MAI from environmental, labor, consumer, and women's organizations around the world.



Resources are widely available on the World Wide Web including:

<world.std.com/~dadams/MAI/>
<www.tao.ca/wind/rre/0166.html>
<www.essential.org/monitor/mai/one.html>
<www.rtknet.org/preamble/maifact.html>

Contacts: Lisa McGowan/50 Years is Enough Campaign: (202) IMF-BANK, wb50years@igc.org

Mark Valliantos/Friends of the Earth: 783-7400x231, mavlli@aol.com

Chantal Taylor/Public Citizens Global Trade Watch, (202) 456-4996, ctaylor@citizen.org

And contact the Global Economy Working Group at waal@seanet.com

23rd National Conference on Men and Masculinity

Pro-Feminist Men 2000

Committed to Justice - Working for Change

August 6 - 9th, 1998

State University of New York at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, Long Island, New York

The National Organization for Men Against Sexism (NOMAS) began as a loose-knit spontaneous social movement in the early 1970s. The First National Conference on Men and Masculinity was held in 1975 in Knoxville, TN. Annual conferences were held in various U.S. cities over the next half-dozen years.

During this period there was little formal organization, but an M & M ideology developed which is strongly pro-feminist and gay-affirmative, while also emphasizing traditional male sex role restrictions, and the need to enhance men's personal and emotional lives. Women as well as men are welcome as members.

In 1981, a national membership organization was formed, and in 1990 the present name, NOMAS, was adopted. In 1992, Anti-Racism was added as a major commitment of NOMAS.

The National M&M Conferences have occurred annually. The 1998 Conference, at Stony Brook, NY, August 6-9, will be the twenty-third National Conference on Men and Masculinity.

To encourage activism and analysis across a range of anti-sexist men's issues, NOMAS now has National Task Groups or Resource Persons in the following areas: Men's Studies, Ending Men's Violence, Homophobia, Eliminating Racism, Men's Culture, Men & Mental Health, Men & Spirituality, Pornography & Prostitution, Men & Prisons, Bisexuality, Child Custody, and Adult Supremacy.

For information on the 1998 Men & Masculinity Conference, contact Conference Coordinator Sue Brown, PO Box 481, Mastic, NY 11950, (516) 399-4229, e-mail: sbrown070@aol.com

Healing Global Wounds 1998 Spring Gathering April 10-13, Nevada Test Site

Healing Global Wounds is an alliance of organizations and individuals working to break the nuclear chain, and restore sustainable living practices on the Earth. The camp will be located on Western Shoshone land at the gates of the Nevada Test Site.

You can experience the beautiful desert; join in an incredibly rich and culturally diverse community of people from all over the world; learn about nuclear and indigenous land rights issues; participate in traditional Native ceremonies from America, Australia, Taiwan and other regions... and if so called, join us in nonviolent direct action to shut the Nevada Nuclear Test Site down and reclaim Shoshone land.

The gathering will include: Friday,

Nonviolent Occupation and prayer circle at the entrance to the Nevada Test Site. Reclaim Western Shoshone Lands from the DOE (Department of Energy) and Shut the Test Site Down!

Multi-faith ceremonies will take place throughout the weekend. Corbin Harney, Western Shoshone spiritual leader, will lead daily sunrise ceremonies and Sweat Lodges. Nevada Desert Experience will hold a Good Friday service, and participate in an Easter morning Circle of Rebirth ceremony at the gates of the Test Site.

Meals, drinking water and sanitation facilities will be provided.

A \$25 share of costs donation is suggested (\$20 if paid by March 1st). Limited motel accommodations are

available nearby for those unable to camp in desert conditions.

For more information about past Healing Global Wounds visit <http://www.shundahai.org/HGW/index.html> or <http://www.scruz.net/~hgw/>

To receive a complete email HGW information packet please send a request to reinard@shundahai.org

We hope that your past year has been filled with many learnings and successes. We hope

that the next year will continue to bring us closer together in this growing, diverse community of action and prayer to bring peace and justice to all.

To get involved in the Spring actions, or for more information, contact Healing Global Wounds, 6060-A Freedom Blvd, Aptos, CA 95003, (408) 661-0445, hgw@scruznet.com

Wildroots

Women Activist Gathering

April 30-May 4
San Marco, Texas

Please join an international gathering of women activists, working on a broad range of issues and using a diversity of methods. We will inspire, problem-solve, network, share success stories, provoke, provide information, laugh, and learn from one another.

From the collective perspective of women activists, we will address the ways we can reinforce each other, reduce activist burn-out, learn how our issues interweave, improve communication and campaign effectiveness, increase media outreach, and share resources.

A shift in consciousness can only occur at the grassroots level. In Starhawk's book, *The Fifth Sacred Thing*, a physicalization of the shift began because a few women acted on their convictions, tore out an intersection and planted a garden in its place. It is our desire to create a space where the most creative ways to rip up concrete will percolate to the surface, and where a strong group of women learn to work together, trust each other, plant seedlings and weave indomitable roots.

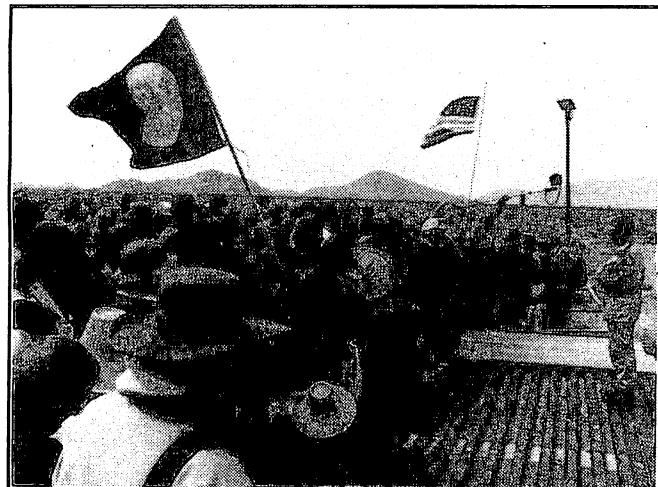
For more information, contact nancie four waters, PO Box 2450, Redway, CA 95560, (707) 923-4377, trees@igc.org

SOUPSTOCK

Food Not Bombs Gathering in San Francisco

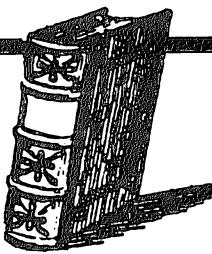
Soupstock, a celebration of the 18th anniversary of Food Not Bombs, will be held at the band shell in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, on Saturday, April 25th, from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The concert will feature local bands, literature tables, and of course free vegetarian food.

For more info, call (650) 985-7087.



Protesters and supporters gather at the main gate of Nevada Test Site at one of the dozens of civil disobedience actions over the past decade. Protesters are authorized by Elders of the Western Shoshone Nation to enter the Test Site, which is on Shoshone land. Photo courtesy of Shundahai Network.

April 10: Communications skills training for multi-cultural work; Saturday, April 11: Informational workshops about nuclear issues and indigenous rights, including indigenous delegations from Taiwan and Australia; Easter Sunday 12: Site-specific non-violence training and action planning; Monday, April 13:



SPIRITUALITY AND POLITICS

BRIGID'S CHARGE

BY CYNTHIA LAMB

WALKING TO MERCURY

BY STARHAWK

Two members of Reclaiming — a community of women and men working to unify spirit and politics — have published novels in the past year which interweave Euro-pagan spirituality with an activist political stance.

Starhawk, whose first novel, *The Fifth Sacred Thing*, presented an apocalyptic conflict between anarcho-pagans and a totalitarian state, has written a deeply-moving "prequel," *Walking to Mercury*. The book consists of flashbacks to protagonist Karla/Maya's youth, set against the backdrop of San Francisco in the late 1960s, alternating with late 1980s scenes set in the mountains of Nepal, where a middle-aged Maya struggles to regain a sense of her spiritual and political commitment. The story comes to a climax as Maya is reunited with her long-lost former lover, Rio, in the desert of the Nevada Test Site.

Equally compelling, but in a quite different vein, Cynthia Lamb's *Brigid's Charge* tells the story of Deborah Leeds, an English immigrant to colonial America who brings her knowledge of the healing craft to the new world. A stirring account of a colonial feminist/pagan and her encounters with Quakers, a college-trained "Doctor of Physic," and her fiery Irish indentured servant Erin, *Brigid's Charge* offers both a vision of the lives of our ancestors and a metaphor for our own struggles to reconcile spirituality and social commitment in our daily lives.

Walking to Mercury is published by Bantam Books. *Brigid's Charge* is published by Bay Island Books, PO Box 485, Corte Madera, CA 94976, (415) 924-9026.

The Activist Cookbook

Creative Actions for a Fair Economy

FROM UNITED FOR A FAIR ECONOMY

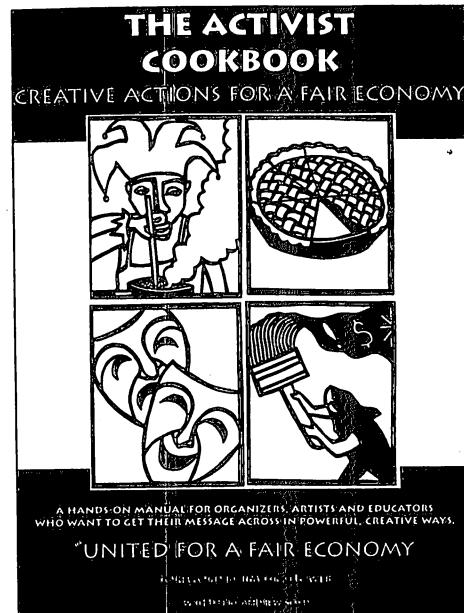
The Activist Cookbook is a new 100-page manual showcasing some of the best media stunts, street theatre and creative direct actions from the labor and social justice movements. This hands-on volume empowers organizers, artists and educators to get their message across in powerful, creative ways.

Highlights include:

- 100 pages packed with eye-catching graphics and photos
- Strategies and tactics for talking about wealth, poverty and inequality
- A survey of creative action, from billboard correction to guerrilla theatre
- A guide for cooking up your own creative actions

United for a Fair Economy is a national organization founded in 1994 to focus public attention on economic inequality in the United States and the implications of inequality for American life and labor.

"In times like these, there's no such thing as too many cooks spoiling the stew. Read



this book and then get out there and mix it up!"

— Michael Moore

The Activist Cookbook is \$16 (5 or more copies \$14, bulk rates available), from 37 Temple Place, 5th floor, Boston, MA 02111, (617) 423-2148, www.stw.org

Ecofeminism as Politics

Nature, Marx and the Postmodern

BY ARIEL SALLEH

Why is an alliance between ecology, peace, feminism, socialism and postcolonial movements so slow in coming? Ariel Salleh's book *Ecofeminism as Politics* offers an explanation.

Salleh explores the philosophical challenge of ecofeminism, and shows how confusion over the implications of "difference" has held back radical change. The book, which is informed

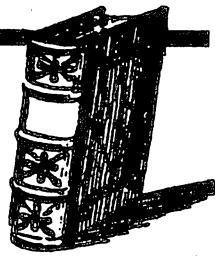
by a critical postmodern reading of the Marxist tradition, includes an account of the history of ecofeminist politics, and argues that a way forward exists in the common agency of women's and indigenous struggles. The book also offers a critique of the stereotype that "women are closer to nature."

Ecofeminism as Politics is available from Zed Books, via St. Martin's Press, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010, (212) 982-3900.

Earth for Sale

Reclaiming Ecology In the Age of Corporate Greenwash

BY BRIAN TOKAR



Since the early 1990s, activists, corporations, and government officials have battled for the heart and soul of the environmental movement. In *Earth for Sale*, environmental activist/author Brian Tokar examines the economic issues, political divisions, and world views that have shaped this conflict, and their implications for a renewed ecological movement for the 21st century.

Tokar demonstrates how national environmental groups — from the Sierra Club to the National Wildlife Federation — have time and time again compromised environmental integrity to become inside players in the corrupt backrooms of Washington politics. Meanwhile, recent administrations have called themselves defenders of the environment even as they undermined the safeguards Americans often take for granted.

But amidst the world of environmental doublespeak, Tokar finds reason for hope. In the book's final

section, he documents the emergence of democratic challenges to corporate environmentalism.

Earth for Sale reaches beyond the temporary remedies of survival-under-crisis to showcase a new ecological vision of community and cooperation. This important and revealing book is crucial reading for those interested in ending environmental devastation and corporate cooptation, and in creating a greener future.

Brian Tokar, a faculty member at Goddard College, has been active in local and national environmental movements since the 1970s. His first book, *The Green Alternative*, helped inspire the formation of Green groups and parties across the country. In addition to his contributions to *GroundWork*, his essays have appeared in *Z* magazine, *The Ecologist*, and other publications.

Earth for Sale is available from South End Press, 7 Brookline Street #1, Cambridge, MA 02139, southend@igc.org

Risky Business

a video on biotechnology
and agriculture

Thousands of plants and animals are being genetically engineered — foods for longer shelf life, crops to tolerate more poison chemicals, and pigs so that their hearts can be transplanted into humans. In this video, Consumers' Union, Environmental Defense Fund, and the Union of Concerned Scientists discuss the dangers of this new technology. Who will it benefit? How does genetic engineering affect farmers, our food supply, public health and the environment?

"A clear explanation of the risks — environmental and economic, not to mention moral — posed by the new biotechnologies. It shows that, in fact, they threaten our capacity to produce healthy food." — Kristin Dawkins, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

"A stern warning about our past failures and the potential dangers of biotechnology." — Joseph Mendelson, International Center for Technology Assessment

Risky Business, a 24-minute video, is available from Moving Images Video Project, 2408 East Valley St., Seattle WA 98112, (206) 323-9461, movingimages@igc.org

Teen Voices: A Voice for Young Women

Teen Voices is a magazine written by and for young women. It honors the sensibilities, ideals, hopes, fears, anger, joy and experiential insights of teenage and young adult women.

Teen Voices is an interactive, educational forum that challenges corporate images of women and serves as a vehicle of change, improving young women's social and economic status. It provides an alternative to glitzy, gossipy fashion-oriented publications that exploit the insecurities of their young audience.

Published by Women Express, Inc., a multicultural collaborative of teens and young adult women based in Boston, Teen Voices carries new stories, music, book and movie reviews, interviews, health information, and more.

Subscriptions to *Teen Voices* are \$20, from Box 116, Boston, MA 02123.



New Study Exposes Abuses of Super-Maximum Security Prisons

BY TERRY A. KUPERS, M.D.

With the tripling of the prison population since 1980 and demise of meaningful rehabilitation and education programs "inside," the rage has built and the level of violence risen. Instead of trying to fix the source of the problem, correctional systems have turned to building "supermax" or "control units," where prisoners who won't conform or who speak out are kept in cells 23 or more hours per day and cell fed — for years.

The forced idleness and isolation cause many very sane men and women to exhibit signs of serious mental illness. But for people who already suffer from mental disorders — and with the destruction of public mental health services and the safety net outside, a growing number of mentally disordered people are winding up in prisons — the solitary confinement is totally intolerable.

Meanwhile, a subgroup of prisoners

with psychiatric problems are selectively funneled into segregation — they misbehave on account of their mental illness, but since they are unlikely to be diagnosed and treatment is totally inadequate, they end up in "the hole." If they attempt suicide or self-mutilation, they are punished with more time in the hole.

Thirty-seven states and the federal prison system now have control units. Many prisoners will spend the last several years of their sentence in total solitary confinement and then hit the streets totally unprepared to "go straight."

Human Rights Watch investigated the supermaximum control units in Indiana and published a report: "Cold Storage: Super-Maximum Security Confinement in Indiana." To order copies, contact Human Rights Watch, 485 Fifth Avenue, NY, NY 10017-6104, (212) 972-8400. email: hrwnyc@hrw.org

PROCESS

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contributions. Skillful facilitation can shift the way in which social power is exercised in meetings, challenging long-standing patterns of interaction which filter out the rich pool of experience rooted in our differences.

Some people need support in reigning themselves in, while others need encouragement to express themselves. Facilitators can take specific steps to open up more room in the discussion. For instance, if it is always the same people speaking, switching to a go-around format in which people are free to pass will draw out other voices. The facilitator can simply ask those who tend to be quiet what they are thinking, or ask them to speak first on an issue. The latter is particularly helpful because it is the first couple of comments that tend to establish the parameters of the discussion.

The facilitator can make room for the "unspoken" or "invisible" by conveying that

there are always numerous viewpoints on any issue. When only one perspective has been voiced, it is good to summarize it and then ask for different perspectives. This creates a more balanced framework for discussion, opening it up for a variety of viewpoints and breaking the mind-set that there is only one answer for any problem.

Generally, where each of us has social power, we need to step back and make room for other voices and experience to come forth. Where we lack social power, we need to put ourselves forward. Drawing on the experiences that have been locked out is the key to creating new ways of doing things which do not reproduce the dominant/compliant dynamic—the very antithesis of democracy.

Bringing in those perspectives we have previously felt compelled to leave at the door is the indispensable piece needed to expand the context for everyone. These taboo aspects expose inequity, and are critical to inform decision making that will establish an inclusive context.

An Act of Conscience

Stirring War Tax Resistance Documentary Goes "On Tour" in 1998

An Act of Conscience, the 90-minute feature film about war tax resisters Randy Kehler and Betsy Corner of Colrain, Massachusetts, is now available on video. Director Robbie Leppzer will be conducting speaking engagements with the film as part of a national grassroots tour throughout 1998.

Narrated by actor Martin Sheen, the film chronicles the story of Kehler and Corner's refusal to pay their federal income taxes as part of a protest against war and military spending. Their farmhouse was seized by federal marshals and IRS agents and later auctioned off by the government. The film documents the long-term nonviolent occupation that developed as a result of their stand of conscience.

Turning Tide productions, producers of the film, is seeking activists, educators, and grassroots organizations to sponsor public showings of *An Act of Conscience* at local independent movie theaters, college campuses, and community centers. The film screening can provide a unique opportunity for local groups to reach out to a wider audience. It can also provide insight into how a long-term nonviolent campaign is organized and sustained. During its premiere run in Northampton, Massachusetts, the film was held over for three weeks, with audience discussion following each showing. Local groups can use the film as a way to make connections to a wide range of contemporary peace and social justice struggles.

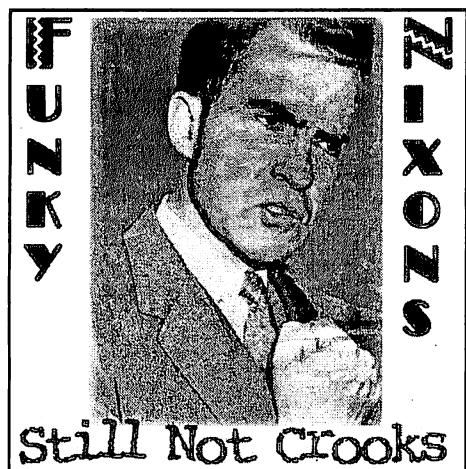
To arrange a local premiere and/or speaking engagement, contact Turning Tide Productions, PO Box 864, Wendell, MA 01379, (978) 544-8313, act@turningtide.com, website: www.turningtide.com

The video version is available for \$25 ppd from the same address (MA residents \$26 including sales tax).

Funky Nixons: Still Not Crooks!

The Funky Nixons, legendary Berkeley icons whose assault on the aural sensibilities of the San Francisco Bay Area has earned them the title "House Band of Peoples Park," have released an 18-song CD featuring their greatest hits of the 1990s.

Veterans of dozens of benefits for co-conspirators such as Food Not Bombs, Earth First!, GroundWork magazine, the Green Party, and many other grassroots causes, the Funky Nixons play a mix of rap, rock and country that has confounded critics and delighted listeners since the Gulf War era. Highlights of "Still Not Crooks" include:



- Screw the Rich
- We Love the Pope
- L.A. Driver
- Minimum Wage
- Savings & Loan
- Smoke a Joint with Jesus
- Hot Stuff
- Barbara Bush's Dog
- We Support the Troops

You can score a copy of this unique CD, and help the Funky Nixons persist in their career of crime, by sending \$12 (includes postage and handling) to Still Not Crooks, c/o GroundWork, PO Box 14141, San Francisco, CA 94114.

www.groundworkmag.org

Our new web site, which will be on-line by early summer, will carry up-to-date announcements and events from across the continent.

See ya there!

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¡Aumento Ya!

A Raise Now!

New video documents strawberry workers' struggle

It was the largest organizing campaign in the history of Northwest agribusiness. For ten years, growers had not raised the wages of the Latino immigrant workers who harvest the strawberry crop in Oregon's Willamette Valley. Many worked long hours and did not even make minimum wage.

In June, 1995, thousands of farmworkers sounded the call: "¡Aumento Ya!" ("A

raise now!") Backed by Oregon's farmworker union, Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN), workers organized two major strikes and a dozen other work stoppages, and won 20% wage increases.

The story of this historic campaign, which included leafletting, creative outreach, legal challenges to intimidation threats by owners and law enforcement officials, as well as the highly visible strikes, is told in this dramatic 50-minute documentary video.

"¡Aumento Ya! A Raise Now!" is a co-production of PCUN, NuVistamedia, and Western States center. The video is in English (some Spanish with subtitles), and comes with a study guide. Price is \$20, \$10 for community-based organizations and low-income individuals, \$50 for institutions.

Available from PCUN, 300 Young Street, Woodburn, OR 97071, (503) 982-0243, www.pcun.org

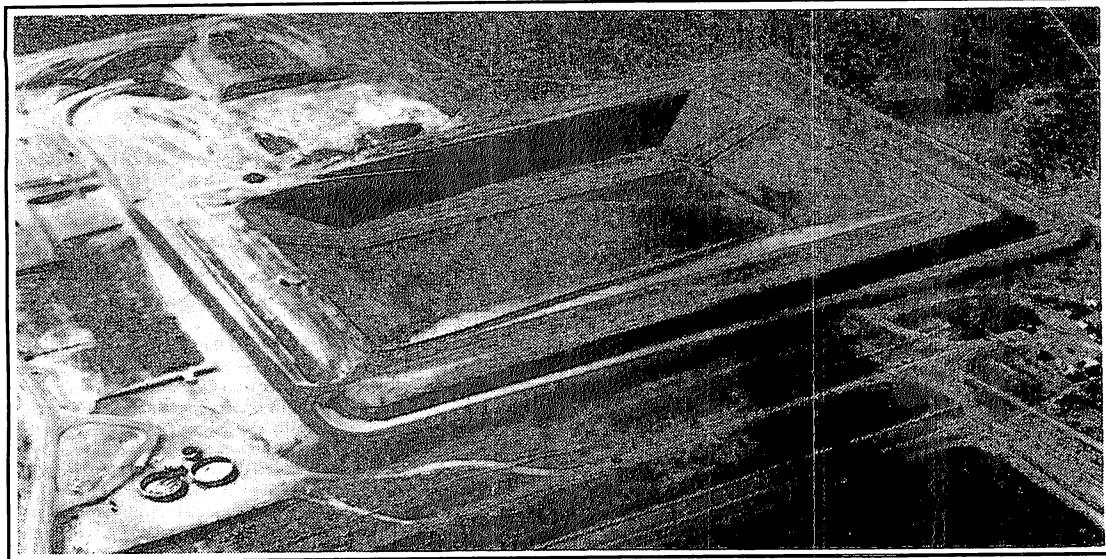
continued from page 16
has cracked and flaked. Particles of it scatter around the room when the spheres are removed from the pit. High explosive particles accumulated on the floor for a year, and workers were worried that they would explode when barrels were dragged across them.

Workers denied respirators and face shields. Some old bombs contain large amounts of uranium dust, which gets into workers' faces.

Supervisors denied requests for respirators, saying they would slow down work and hamper communication. Workers have been sprayed in the face with high-pressure, contaminated water used to separate high explosive from the plutonium pit. They were not allowed to use face shields.

Inadequate training. Supervisors eager to meet deadlines did not fully train the technicians in how to disarm each weapon. Techs who asked questions were repeatedly told to shut up.

Safety precautions discouraged. Techs who issued a "stop work" order because they did not know how to proceed safely without engineering advice were criticized by supervisors — and by co-workers who lost overtime pay because of the stop-work.



ERDF — Hanford's Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility. For a sense of scale, a flea walking on this photo would be the size of a semi-trailer. Photo courtesy of HEAL.

CLEAN-UP

DOE has estimated that cleaning up the nuclear weapons complex will cost \$227 billion and take 75 years. (That's a lot, but it's small change compared to the \$4 trillion spent producing nuclear weapons for 50 years.) In 1995, Al Alm, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management at DOE, proposed to clean up the complex in only ten years. How did he think he could do that? By privatizing the cleanup work and lowering cleanup standards. DOE is now two years into this plan.

Privatization was supposed to save money, but it has done exactly the opposite. For example, privatization at Hanford has driven up overhead costs, the

costs of transitioning from one contractor to another, and even estimates for the cleanup work itself. Instead of privatizing, DOE should set schedules to reduce its overhead costs. Overhead in the nuclear weapons complex

averages 60%-80%; the industry norm is 35%.

Lower cleanup standards. Here are some examples of how cleanup standards would be lowered under the Ten Year Plan:

- Levels of groundwater contamination would be left five times higher than under previous plans.
- To save money, DOE would mix the liquid high level waste at Hanford into grout rather than vitrify it as planned (melt it into glass or ceramic). Radioactivity and weather break down grout much faster than they break down glass, so vitrification is a safer, longer-lasting solution.

- Vast areas of contamination at many sites would be abandoned as national sacrifice areas.

Fortunately Alm resigned in November 1997, and hopefully his bright idea will fade away with him. Maybe contractors can start cleaning up the complex instead of wasting their time figuring out how to meet unrealistic deadlines under the Ten Year plan.

PROGRESS WITH VITRIFICATION AT SAVANNAH RIVER SITE

High level waste (HLW) is primarily spent nuclear fuel (see "High Level Waste Part II", p. 7) and the highly radioactive waste generated by reprocessing spent nuclear fuel to extract uranium and plutonium. Even a brief exposure to HLW, without shielding, would give a person a



Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance activists protest at the Oak Ridge, Tennessee plant. Photo courtesy of OREPA.

potentially lethal dose of radiation.

The 34 million gallons of liquid HLW in underground tanks at the Savannah River Site must be solidified to become stable. Seven percent of it is to be vitrified and sent to Yucca Mountain. The rest is to be mixed with concrete and put in vaults at Savannah River.

Savannah River has nearly finished vitrifying all of its HLW that was kept separate by waste type. The rest of the wastes must be separated before they can be solidified. Savannah River has not been able to develop a separation process that works.

At least the waste mix in the HLW in Savannah River's tanks is relatively homogeneous, which means they only have to find one solution to the problem of separating it. By contrast, the mix in the 60 million gallons of HLW in Hanford's tanks varies widely, which means Hanford may need several solutions.

But in a drive to keep employment up at Savannah River, proposals have been made to bring all kinds of HLW to Savannah River from throughout the nuclear weapons complex. Before or after processing, depending on the proposal, these different wastes would be poured into the old tanks, further complicating the task of separating the wastes.

PROGRESS CLEANING UP HANFORD

Some progress has been made in cleaning up Hanford, and the Hanford Education Action League (HEAL) deserves a lot of credit for pushing DOE to do it.

- Waste is being dug up along the Columbia River and placed in a permitted disposal facility (*see photo, previous page*).

- Unpermitted liquid waste discharges to the ground have nearly stopped.

- Preparations are being made to move spent nuclear fuel from near the river to a safe storage facility away from the river.

- Old weapons production facilities are being cleaned out.

- Groundwater contamination is being pumped out of the ground and treated.

But there has not been much progress on Hanford's worst problem — its 177 tanks of high level waste. Many of the tanks are leaking. Organic chemicals in

the tanks cause gas to build up, posing a threat of explosion.

No progress has been made toward removing waste from the tanks and solidifying it. The danger of explosion from hydrogen buildup has been reduced

by using pumps to release gas at safe levels. Tank sampling and review of historical data have reduced concerns about a possible ferrocyanide explosion. But that's all the tank program has to show for its \$300-500 million per year budget.

Cleanup at Hanford has been severely hampered by DOE's privatization efforts and Ten Year Plan.

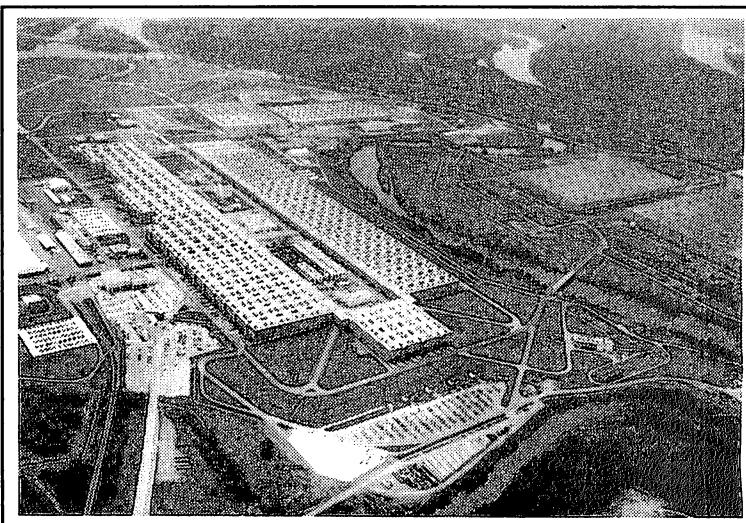
CONVERSION OF THE K-25 PLANT AT OAK RIDGE

In order to avoid cleaning up some surplus facilities in the nuclear weapons complex, DOE is converting the buildings to civilian uses. The K-25 plant at Oak Ridge is a case in point.

When K-25 was built in 1942, it was the largest building in the world, covering nearly 43 acres. For 22 years the plant's purpose was to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons. In recent years the plant has focused on waste storage, treatment and disposal. 120,000 barrels of mixed waste are stored in its basement.

Cleaning up K-25 is a daunting task. For example, it contains more than twenty miles of asbestos-lined pipes, thousands of PCB-laden rubber gaskets, and enriched uranium deposited in pipes and ducts. DOE says the only way they can afford to clean it up is to rent out the building and have tenants fund the work. At the same time, DOE has not asked Congress to fund the cleanup.

To convert K-25 to private industry,



The K-25 Gaseous Diffusion Plant at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The U-shaped building covers 43 acres. This plant enriched uranium for weapons and reactors from 1945 through 1987. Now what do we do with it? Photo by DOE.

DOE funds a group of business boosters called the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee (CROET).

CROET's board has token representatives from labor and environmental organizations, but is 90% white male.

CROET has signed leases, and some tenants have moved into the contaminated buildings. New, less experienced, lower-paid, non-union people work for the tenant companies, replacing the union workforce who knew the hazards and safeguards of the plant.

CROET board members may review lease agreements before voting on them only if they agree to keep secret the lease rates and information on incoming companies. Lease agreements do not necessarily require tenants to decontaminate the premises before they start business or when they leave. CROET gets to keep the rent it charges for buildings that belong to us, the taxpayers.

GET INVOLVED — SEE CONTACTS, PAGE 17, FOR A GROUP IN YOUR AREA!

GroundWork hits the Internet!

www.groundworkmag.org

Coming Summer 1998 — Get the latest info on anti-nuclear and other grassroots organizing!

CHIP MILLS

continued from page 22

as the "Dogwood Alliance," calling for a moratorium on more chip mills until government agencies investigate the economic and environmental impacts of the industry's unsustainable forestry practices. The creation of the Alliance marked the first time in the history of the region that forest activists have coordinated their efforts on such a large scale to work on a single issue.

Today, 34 groups belong to the Dogwood Alliance, which is the only unified response in the U.S. to the rapid spread of chip mills in the south-central states. The Dogwood Alliance is working towards empowering local communities threatened by chip mills, educating landholders about the negative implications of selling their timber for pulp, promoting sustainable forest practices, and encouraging wood consumption reduction and alternatives to using trees for paper.

For contact information and more information on chip mills, see page 22.

PHILIPPINES

continued from page 35

homeland, where the mining resources are. Kaliwat theatre, which aims to preserve Indigenous culture in the area through music and dance, is playing a vital role in the struggle for local Lumad groups, especially in the Columbia area. Half their operation is devoted to advocating Lumad people's rights and also environmental issues.

For contact info, see page 35.

CASSINI

continued from page 32

people are debating it. It's out there now, people are concerned and they're going to let NASA know it."

The demonstration began around noon with a rally staged on a grassy field one mile outside the air station's gates. Protesters arrived by bus and carload for the rally. After hearing music and speakers, the group walked down State Road 401 to the station's gates, led by a bagpipe player and a group of elderly women carrying a "Grandmothers for Peace" banner.

Nine members of the Grandmothers walked through the gate and were arrested.

The gate was then closed, and another 18 protesters followed by climbing over the fence.

Barbara Wiedner of Elk Grove, California, was among the grandmothers who led the protesters in civil disobedience. The 68-year-old founder of the International Grandmothers for Peace group stopped counting her arrests at 20. "I think it really says something that we're doing this," Wiedner told *Florida Today*. "We are responsible, law abiding citizens and we don't do this casually. People have to realize that there's something terribly wrong here if we're willing to do this."

Thanks to Florida Today and the Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice — see sidebar, page 32, for contact info.

PRISON SUPPORT

continued from page 29

"representatives" in government. Home study and letter writing groups also help people exchange ideas and notify each other about demonstrations and events. For those with computer skills, there are resources on the Internet.

As with other abuses, the main weapons of the prison system are silence and intimidation. It is essential to tell the tax-paying public in forums, radio broadcasts, street theater, email, and at the dinner table what goes on in our prisons. We need to break the romantic fantasy of prison perpetrated by the media. Organizations like the California Coalition for Women Prisoners and PARC distribute fact sheets and newsletters. Oberlin Action Against Prison is an Ohio student group that holds public education events and publishes *Caged In*, a magazine of Ohio inmates writings. College campuses, both public and private are good places to find and develop prisoner advocacy groups.

Cohalitions are effective methods of gathering organizers for specific purposes. KNOW Injustice is an example of what can be accomplished when people focusing on different aspects of the same problem meet. In California, on September 21, 1996, prisoners' rights advocacy groups, representatives from the American Civil Liberties Union and the AFSC and labor union leaders all sponsored a successful community event. It was a day of speakers, music, and information tables focusing on how imprisonment effects our communities. Former

prisoners had opportunities to relate their experiences to the public and the press. People learned how prison slave labor is taking an increasingly bigger share of our jobs, regardless of the level of skills and protection we thought we had. People went home with T-shirts, buttons, and literature that will help them maintain connections with prison and social activist groups.

Some people, alone or in groups, have developed successful pen-pal relationships with inmates. Letters from outside are often one of the few ways inmates have of breaking the monotonous and dehumanizing grip of prison. Many prisoner advocacy groups know names of inmates who want correspondence.

Along with letters, several organizations send books into prisons. They operate through bookstores and keep track of the stringent regulations institutions set up for receiving literature. Prison Book Program works through Redbook Store in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, and the Prisoner Literature Project works through Bound Together Books in San Francisco, California. They also have lists of other prisoner resources around the country. Books can be vital links to the outside because of the long periods of time inmates spend with nothing to do.

I wanted to share a brief overview of the way incarceration affects us all. I could have filled this article with gory examples of the daily abuse in prisons that we pay for. Other articles could focus entirely on women inmates, the booming prison-industrial slave labor complex, or on control units. This topic is huge — the point is, it is up to all of us to stop this menace.

PRISONER SUPPORT RESOURCES

The Fire Inside is the newsletter of the California Coalition for Women Prisoners, and carries reports from women prisoners as well as concrete ways you can get involved in support work. Send subscription contributions to 100 McAllister, San Francisco, CA 94102. \$25 or more sends a subscription to a woman in prison as well as to you.

Pelican Bay Prison Express is published by the Pelican Bay Information Project, this magazine is dedicated to exposing conditions and abuses at California's notorious Pelican Bay Prison. Send \$15 or more to 2489 Mission Street, #28, San Francisco, CA 94110.

HEADWATERS

continued from page 27

Complex. These areas contain thousands of acres of ancient trees, providing hillside stability and vital habitat for salmon and marbled murrelets. We are committed to defending the 60,000 acres from the incredible devastation threatened by the Clinton-Feinstein-Hurwitz negotiations, but more fundamentally we are committed to the vision of a locally controlled economy based on sustainable resource stewardship. We believe that ecological stewardship of the land cannot coexist with corporate greed, and that the workers of Pacific Lumber deserve a future in the forest-based economy. "Not one more ancient tree!" is our rallying cry, as we vigilantly defend the places that politics has intentionally ignored.

TAKING TO THE STREETS

For a refreshing change from our defensive position, the Art and Revolution Convergence group brought activists and artists together at basecamp for a weekend of giant puppet making, street theater and dance. We took to the streets of Eureka on Monday, October 6, climaxing in a theatrical dance and theater performance on the Humboldt County courthouse lawn, where we ousted King Hurwitz from his position of corporate plutocracy in the redwoods, and built a symbolic bridge between the labor and ecological concerns that have divided our communities for so long. The gathering gave us a unique opportunity to express our political sentiments collectively through metaphor and symbolism, and to represent our future visions for social change.

On October 22, 200 energetic forest supporters took to the streets of Santa Rosa, rallying at the State and Federal Buildings, and closing at the CDF Region One headquarters. On Halloween in San Francisco, an artistic procession followed a four-poster bed carrying Charles Hurwitz and Senator Dianne Feinstein to the Pacific Stock Exchange. Days later (11/3), we rallied in front of the State Capitol in Sacramento, then marched to the State Resources Building.

Frontline activists know firsthand the incredible devastation hidden behind MAXXAM property lines, and that to expose such abuse requires a multi-level effort, including community-based alternatives and legislative reform. Nonviolent civil disobedience is both a spiritual practice and a political tool. We use direct action tactics

to propel the issues of species survival and land stewardship into the hearts and minds of average citizens, hoping to inspire the popular support necessary to save what little is left of this endangered ecosystem from the greedy jaws of capitalism.

Editor's Note: Through the winter, MAXXAM/Pacific Lumber received contradictory messages from the CDF: Timber Harvest Plans have been approved for old growth and residual buffer zones within the 60,000 acres commonly referred to as Headwaters Forest. At the same time, CDF announced in the media that they are investigating the possibility of revoking PL's timber license. Concurrently, the once-invincible treesit village called "Liberty" was dismantled by Pacific Lumber climbers. Every tree surrounding "Luna" is down (see page 31), but activists are continuing plans to defend the Headwaters' ancient forests.

For ongoing updates on Headwaters, call the Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters hotline, 510-835-6303. Donations can be sent to BACH, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, CA 94702.

Headwaters activists need the financial and material support of the greater earth-loving community, but more basic is the need for public participation on every level of the struggle. To offer your skills, interests or donations to the Headwaters campaign, call the Mendocino Environmental Center at (707) 468-1660. For MEC's Quarterly Newsletter, send \$20 to 106 West Standley Street, Ukiah, CA 95482.

WARD VALLEY

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have earned their trust.

One key organizer left on the eve of the occupation because he believed excluding one-half of the coalition from the decision-making process would violate the principle of direct democracy and would set a bad precedent for future coalitions between Native Americans and non-Natives. Some other activists who stayed, hoping for the best, have become disillusioned and left since. But there are many who remain with the occupation, their love of the land or the people stronger than their discomfort with the process.

The proportion of Native Americans to non-Natives in the occupation rises each day. The activists from far away must inevitably return to their families, their jobs, and

their other campaigns. They are being replaced by more and more Tribal members who have never been to Ward Valley before. One Elder asked why there were white people there at all; she came thinking this was an Indian event.

Maybe our multi-cultural occupation was a phase leading to a multi-Tribal occupation. But non-Native activists must not abandon our Native American friends in Ward Valley. We must continue to work on the issues of nonviolence and decision-making, and come quickly to Ward Valley if they need us as witnesses when the government decides enough is enough.

For more information or to get involved, contact the Save Ward Valley Office, 107 F Street, Needles, CA 92363, 760-326-6267.

See related story on page 34 regarding Greenaction's work at Ward Valley, and page 12 for how the proposed dump at Ward Valley fits into the national nuclear waste picture.

KATUAH EARTH FIRST!

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communities in Tennessee (Cocke County) have suffered irrevocable losses in cancer deaths and lost economic opportunities (recreation) due to the pollution in the Pigeon River.

Instead of investing in recycled and/or alternative fiber sources, Champion built a chip mill in Tennessee. Instead of investing in chlorine free and zero discharge technologies, Champion uses a little less chlorine, burns most of its dioxins and still dumps waste into the Pigeon River. That behavior shows a total lack of concern for the forests, rivers and surrounding communities. We must build a movement to hold these corporate robber barons accountable for their earth/life destroying activities.

Please help support Katuah Earth First!'s direct actions in defense of Mother Earth and in offense against industries which put profit before people and healthy ecosystems. We need donations to help cover legal expenses (potential lawyers fees and fines) and donations to help cover the costs of these kinds of actions (banner material, U-locks, cell phone etc...) against the pulp and paper industry and for the living forests that give life to our bioregion.

Please send donations (you can specify how you want it spent) to Katuah Earth First!, Box 281, Chattanooga, TN 37401, (423) 624-3939.

Creating An Atmosphere Where Everyone Participates

BY MARGO ADAIR & SHARON HOWELL

Organizations striving to create democratic relations usually function with the notion that everyone can and should participate equally. If s/he doesn't, it is viewed as a personal choice or limitation. All behaviors are seen as stemming from individual personality.

Yet patterns of social interaction form currents below the surface, directing how we view ourselves and each other. These dictate behavior, expectations, and — to a large degree — who people take seriously.

Social power is accorded to individuals based on their membership in groups which have had more or less power in the larger society. Social power is not a direct result of an individual's personality, skill, talent or achievements. Rather, it is at all times embedded in a larger context, and reflects the social, economic and historical status of the group(s) to which a person belongs. More often than not, social power is invisible, unacknowledged and unexamined. While formal roles and responsibilities are frequently clear, inequities based on gender, class, ethnicity, age, appearance and education are rarely addressed openly.

For example, in most cultures, people are conditioned to give more weight to the words of men. As women enter organizational settings, they notice a distinct lack of attention given to their comments. Many studies have documented the tendency to rearrange papers, walk around the room, or begin side conversations while women are speaking. Efforts to explore this behavior as a socially conditioned phenomenon are blunted when incidents are explained away by particular circumstances. ("No one intended to show a lack of respect, merely to get coffee—it just happened to occur when a woman started to speak.") Such patterns are deeply ingrained. They unconsciously dictate behavior forming a web of daily interactions that tell people from groups with less social power that their contributions are not as valued or wel-

comed as those from the majority culture.

Compounding the problem, those with social power take it for granted that they are the ones with the answers. They expect to be agreed with. After all, people have always sought out their opinions and given great weight to them. Yet it is exactly because of these dynamics that those with social power are the very ones least likely to have new information. Their presence in a group tends to provoke both compliance and silence. Those with social power usually have no idea that multiple realities have been relegated to the world of silence.

Creating a democratic atmosphere in which everyone participates means both putting ourselves forward and including others. To do this we must understand the dynamics rooted in issues of power, and do things which counter them. In the dominant culture, the degree to which one can operate purely as an individual without taking into account issues of social power is directly proportional to the degree of privilege one has inherited within that culture, ie, how much social power one has.

A dominant/compliant dynamic is set when people simply jump in to express their opinions. The usual way that order is maintained is by having people raise their hands. This method does little to overcome social inequities. Generally, those with more social power still take up the majority of the time available for discussion, believing they have the more important points. Those with less social power find themselves as listeners.

SHIFTING THE DYNAMIC

To shift these dynamics, the same voices should not be allowed to dominate, even if the people who are quiet say they are in agreement with what is being said. Room is needed for the initiative and participation of everyone. The less people contribute, the less ownership they feel of the group's process. The structures and processes of meetings need to incorporate new ways of working together that encourage everyone's

continued on page 42

Ideas for Equalizing Time

- Encourage those who usually speak first to wait, and those who usually don't to put forth their perspectives.
- Use a round format.
- Alternate between men and women.
- Ask those from marginalized groups to speak first.
- Everyone speaks once before anyone speaks again on an issue.
- Ten seconds of silence between each speaker.
- Give everyone a certain number of chips. Each time a person speaks they must give up a chip; when their chips are used up, they can not speak again until a new set are distributed.
- Start with five minutes of silence in which people write down their main ideas and concerns on the topic. This can be done by writing each idea on a separate card — three apiece is a good start. Put them in a basket, then have people draw out the cards and read them aloud.

TOOLS FOR CHANGE

Margo Adair and Sharon Howell are Associates of Tools for Change, which provides facilitation, mediation and training services on Uprooting Sexism, Alliance Building, Visionary & Critical Thinking, Organizational Transformation and Diversity Issues. For information on services or publications, contact Tools for Change, 349 Church Street, San Francisco, CA 94114, (415) 861-6347 (phone and fax) email: MAdair@aol.com web site: www.toolsforchange.org

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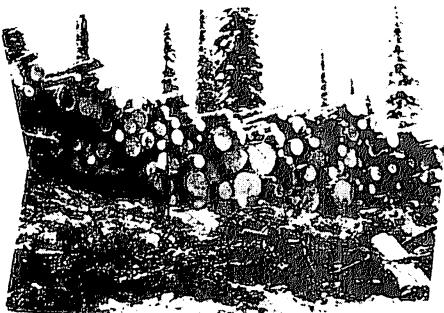


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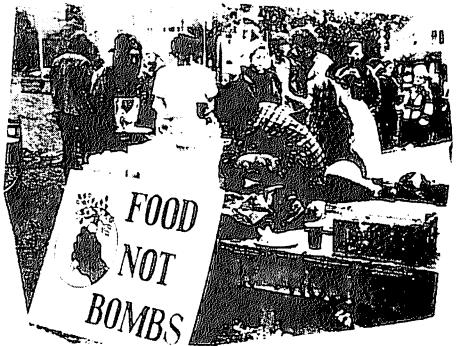
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